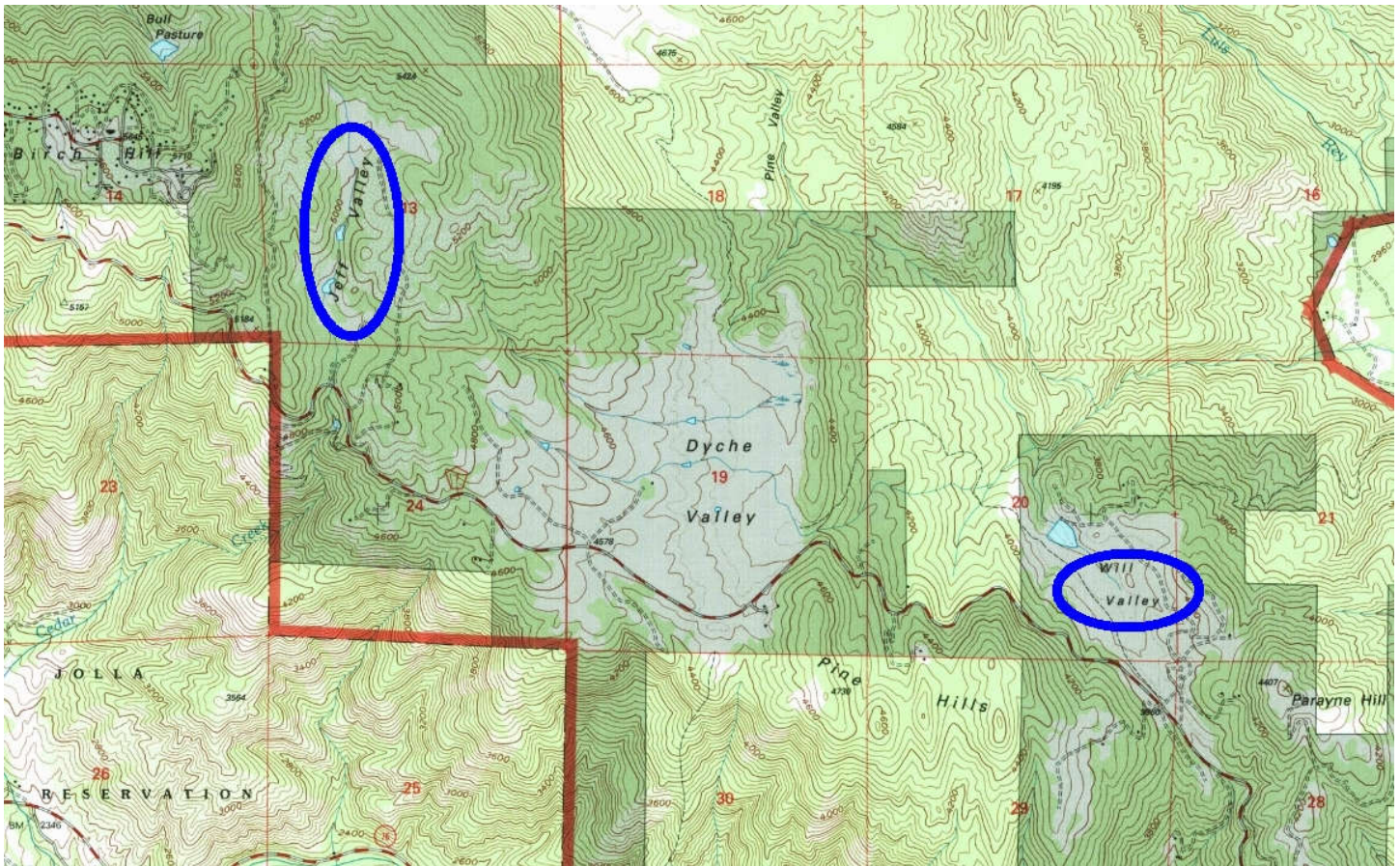


The Cooks of Palomar Mountain

Peter Brueggeman 2025

Uncited information and images are from ancestry.com, findagrave.com, and www.familysearch.org. Property records were not researched; the properties noted are listed in the Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office Records database or found in newspaper notices.

Who are Jeff and Will of **Jeff Valley** and **Will Valley** on the east side of Palomar Mountain?



Jeff Valley is named after **Jefferson Madison Cook**.

Jefferson Madison Cook (1824 – 1898, born in Tennessee, full Cherokee) and his first wife Mary “Polly” Jones (1828 – 1853, born in Arkansas) were living in the Sugarloaf Township, Crawford County, Arkansas at the time of the 1850 U.S. Census. Their children were:

- Elizabeth Cook Swain, then Elizabeth Cook Summers (March 12, 1846 – November 9, 1906, born in Missouri)
- William H. Cook (1847 – December 24, 1912, born in Arkansas)
- Churchill Hampton Cook (April 2, 1850 – August 1, 1912, born in Arkansas)
- Rosanna ‘Rosa’ Cook Helm (March 8, 1852 – May 13, 1912, born in Arkansas)

Jefferson Madison Cook married his second wife Lucinda Moore Fox Reynard (November 28, 1836 -- November 2, 1920) in Denison, Grayson County, Texas about 1854.



Jefferson Madison Cook and his second wife Lucinda, undated

The children of Jefferson and Lucinda Cook were [5]:

- Charlotte Cook Evans (1856 – May 4, 1921)
- George Washington Cook (December 16, 1858 – May 16, 1921)
- Aaron Cook (1859 – 1870+) – Listed in 1870 Census; no records found after that.
- Salatha Cook (1859 – 1860+, female) – Listed in 1860 Census; no records found after that.
- Simon Cook (1861 – 1870+) – Listed in 1870 Census; no records found after that.
- Lenora Cook Cloos (January 10, 1861 – October 8, 1932)
- Alice May Wright Cook Warren (October 4, 1862 – October 15, 1944, born in Texas)
- Hiram Madison Cook (May 27, 1865 – May 10, 1934, born in Texas) – Listed as Samuel Cook in 1870 Census.
- Thomas Jefferson Cook (June 24, 1868 – January 24, 1935, born in California)
- Susan Cook (February 1870 – 1890, born in California)
- Ida Bell Cook Mowbray (June 17, 1872 – February 22, 1950, born in California) – Listed as Rachael Cook (1880), Rachel I.B. Mowbray (1900), Ida Mowbray (1910), Thelma I.B. Mowbray (1920), Thelma I. Mowbray (1930), Thelma B. Mowbray (1940).
- Beulah Cook (1877 – 1880+, born in California) – Listed in 1880 Census; no records found after that.

How many Cooks were there? In the 1900 U.S. Census, Jefferson Cook's second wife Lucinda said she had eleven children and eight were living. A 1971 newspaper story on the Cooks of Smith Mountain said they had twelve children [2]. There are twelve listed above, with eight alive in 1900 counting Beulah.

The 1860 U.S. Census, enumerated in August, lists Jefferson and Lucinda Cook in the Lexington Post Office area in Burleson County, Texas with children Elizabeth Cook (age 14), William Cook (age 12), Churchill Cook (age 10), Rosanna Cook (age 8), F.E. Moore (female, age 6, probably not their child), Charlotte Cook (age 4), George Cook (age 3), and Salatha Cook (female, 10 months). In 1863, Jefferson Cook enlisted in the Confederate Texas Cavalry as a bugler.

Moving from Texas, Jefferson and Lucinda Cook and family settled near Milguatay (Campo) in San Diego County.

A 1933 Escondido Times-Advocate newspaper story on Hiram and Anice Cook said he came by wagon train from Texas at the age of two years; Hiram was born on May 27, 1865, so he was two years old in 1867 to 1868 [41]. A 1934 Escondido Daily Times-Advocate newspaper story on Hiram Cook's upcoming funeral service says the Cook family moved to San Diego County in 1867 [10]. The 1870 U.S. Census enumerating the Cook family in Milguatay, California on July 8th, lists twenty-one-month-old Thomas J. Cook and five-month-old Susan Cook as born in Texas. However, the 1880 U.S. Census lists them both as born in California.

The 1870 U.S. Census lists the Cook children in Milguatay: Churchill Cook, Frances E. Cook, William H. Cook, Charlotte Cook, George Cook, Aaron Cook, Simon Cook, Alice Cook, Samuel Cook, Thomas J. Cook, and Susan Cook. The 1870 U.S. Census records Frances E. Cook as 16 years old; other records date her in 1870 to be 24 years old, born in 1846.

The 1870 U.S. Census records William H. Cook as 16 years old and present in Milguatay with his father on July 8th; other records date him in 1870 to be 23 years old, born in 1847. The 1870 U.S. Census also records William H. Cook as 23 years old (born in 1847), married and living in Los Nietos Township in Los Angeles County with his wife Susan and two children on August 12, 1870. There was another Cook son living near the Los Nietos Township: Churchill Hampton Cook in the Silver Precinct (Santa Fe Springs). Perhaps William H. Cook was visiting his father one month earlier when the 1870 U.S. Census recorded him in Milguatay.

Jefferson Cook and family left Milguatay (Campo) due to concerns for their safety [2,82]. There was thievery, banditry, and violence in the Campo border area and the shootout at the Gaskill brothers store with Mexican border bandits on December 4, 1875, which was the second bloodiest civilian shootout in the American West after the shootout at the OK Corral in Arizona, undoubtedly contributed to those concerns [2,82,93].

Jefferson Cook and family moved to Downey, California (his sons Churchill Cook and William H. Cook were living nearby), after which they moved onto Palomar Mountain in 1877 at what is now called Jeff Valley (after Jefferson Cook) [2,82].

Many of their children had married and left home by the time Jefferson and Lucinda Cook arrived on Palomar Mountain with some of the children [2]. Eloise Perkins wrote in a 1971 Escondido Times-Advocate article that Jefferson and Lucinda Cook arrived on Palomar Mountain in 1877, with three sons and three daughters [2,82]:

George Washington Cook

Hiram Madison Cook

Thomas Jefferson Cook

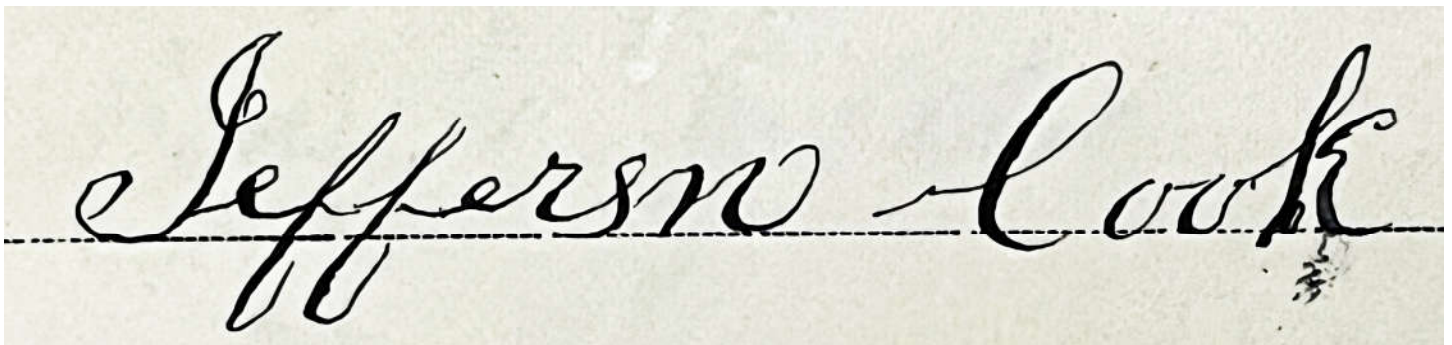
Susan Cook

Ida Bell Cook

Beulah Mae Cook

Granddaughter Beulah Mae Cook Brady recalled in a 1966 newspaper article [83]:

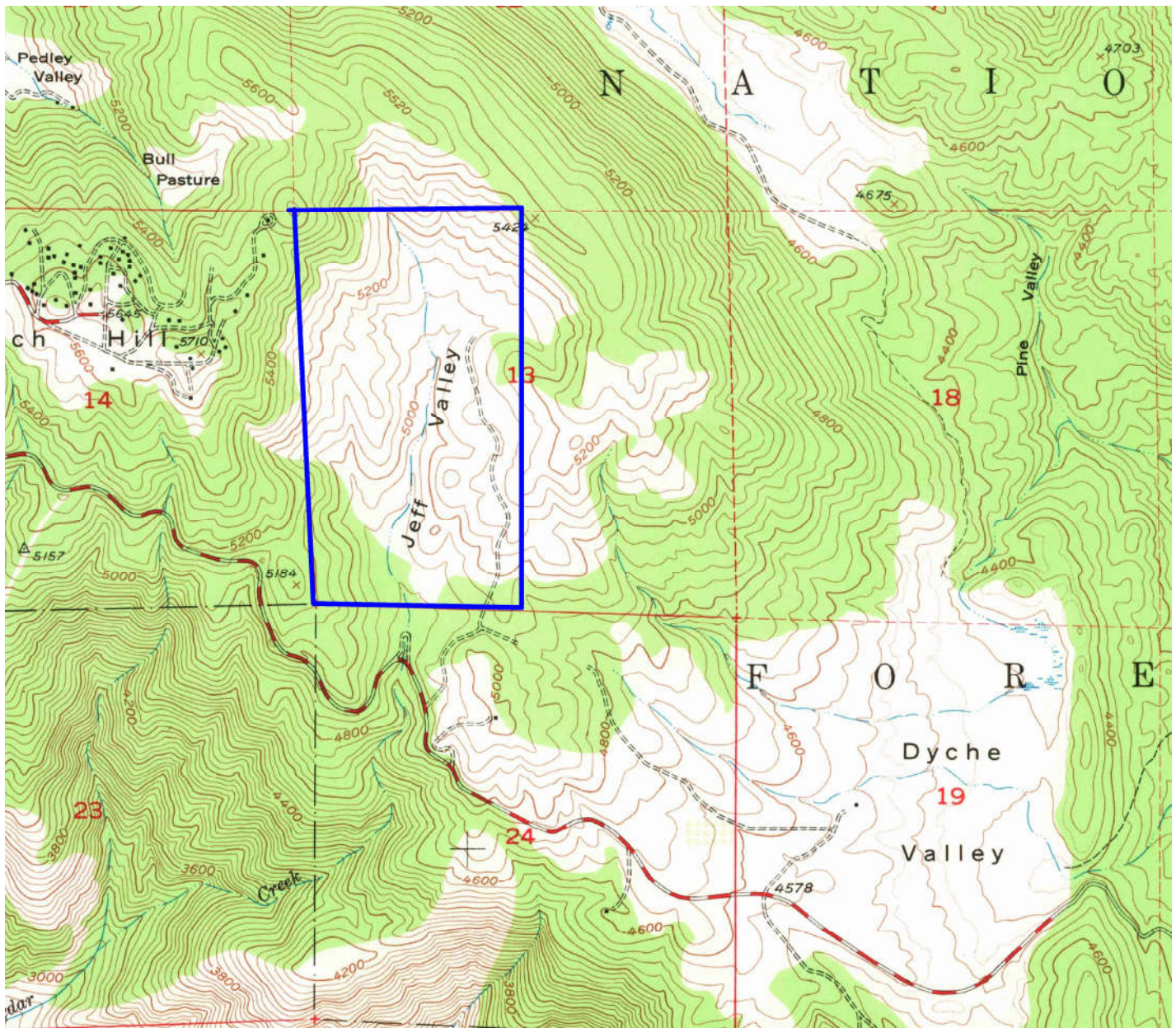
Father (Hiram Madison Cook) had a brother, George who was 29, and another one, Tom, 10. They came with their parents to the mountain. Grandfather and Grandmother had 11 or 12 children, but the older ones were married or had left home for other reasons. Also accompanying their parents to the mountain were three girls, Susie, Ida and Beulah Cook. I was named for Beulah, the youngest.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Jefferson Cook" and is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The signature is positioned above a horizontal dashed line. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent 'J' and 'C'.

Jefferson Cook signature on an 1890 Malava school document at San Diego History Center

As years passed, Cook family members lived at several locations on Palomar Mountain. Robert Asher wrote in his *My Palomar* memoir [8]:

There were a number of Cooks. The father settled in Jeff Cook Valley. Bill Cook settled in Will Valley; George in Dyche Valley and Hiram at Big Orchard.



Jefferson Madison Cook property of 320 acres on Palomar Mountain, deeded 1889 and 1891 [21]

After Joseph Smith's death on Palomar Mountain in 1868, Palomar Mountain became known as Smith or Smith's Mountain for many years; in 1901, its name was officially changed to Palomar Mountain [3].

The 1880 U.S. Census records Jefferson and Lucinda Cook living on Palomar Mountain (recorded in June 1880 in the Agua Caliente Township wherein some Palomar Mountain residents are listed including such Palomar residents as George Doane, George Mendenhall, and George Dyche) with children Hiram (age 15), Thomas (age 12), Susan (age 10), Rachael (age 6) and Beulah (age 3). Rachael is probably Ida Bell Cook Mowbray.

Jefferson Cook's daughter from his first marriage, **Rosanna "Rosa" Cook**, evidently visited and/or lived on Palomar Mountain for some time; she met Chatham 'Chet' Helm (April 6, 1821 – October 18, 1905) of nearby Warner Springs and then married him on September 30, 1873 [1]. The 1880 U.S. Census recorded them in Agua Caliente Township adjacent to Palomar Mountain. They had sons Chatham E. (November 1875 – 1931), James Montgomery (April 24, 1879 – January 6, 1953) and Stonewall Jackson 'Jack' (February 9, 1880 – August 4, 1950) and daughters Parthenia Elizabeth (July 1874 – April 22, 1939), Josephine (October 10, 1878 – July 4, 1957), Kasiah L. (December 8, 1882 – ?) and Louis Inez 'Kizzy' (January 25, 1866 – January 18, 1904). Marion Beckler wrote about Palomar's Malava school: "There was no school at Warner's so, in those first years, the Helms children came up the mountain for school, staying with the Cooks [5]." Chatham and Rosa Helm sold their ranch in 1889 and were living in Downey by the time of the 1900 U.S. Census [1].

Jefferson and Lucinda Cook's married daughter **Lenora Cook**, her husband Armon Monroe Cloos and their two children at that time moved to Palomar Mountain as well; later Cloos children were born and lived on Palomar Mountain. The 1880 U.S. Census lists their daughter Lenora very close to Jefferson Cook's listings in the Agua Caliente Township, and thus living on Palomar Mountain. In 1880, Lenora Cook is recorded as married to Armon Monroe Cloos (May 23, 1841 – June 5, 1906), with two children Joseph Victor (February 17, 1879 – January 15, 1969) and Susan Lillian (April 23, 1880 – September 25, 1894). Several of their children were born and lived on Palomar Mountain until the Cloos family left Palomar: Albert Clifton Cloos (December 5, 1881 – July 30, 1962), Philesta Bell Cloos (August 1, 1885 – June 8, 1970), Charles Armon Cloos (May 14, 1886 – March 23, 1909), Henry George Cloos (April 13, 1890 – October 12, 1971), and Thomas P. Cloos (October 1892 - November 11, 1978).

Lenora Cook Cloos' daughter Susan Lillian Cloos died in 1894 at Vacaville Junction in Solano County, California so the Cloos family left Palomar Mountain before 1894.



Daughter Lenora Cook and her husband Armon Cloos, undated



Grandson Albert Clifton Cloos and granddaughter Philesta Bell Cloos lived on Palomar, undated



Gravestone of Armon Cloos and daughter Lenora Cook Cloos

That 1880 U.S. Census' Schedule 2, Productions of Agriculture tallied Jefferson Cook with 160 unimproved acres having land value of \$300 and livestock value of \$224 having four horses, seven cattle, and twenty acres of wheat. In 1881, Jefferson Cook is noted as having a "possessory claim on Smith's mountain in the Rincon, near Dyche, 160 acres and improvements" with a value of \$210 and personal property value of \$178, with \$15.01 taxes due for 1880 [22].

In July 1881, the San Diego Union published legal notices of George V. Dyche's final claim on his homestead land, with witnesses J. Cook, J.L. McIntier, J. Trujillo, and C. Gunn [36].

Jefferson Cook was an election judge for Smith Mountain in 1882 and for the Malava School District in 1885 [23,33].

In January 1885, the National City Record published a list of delinquent taxes for San Diego County for fiscal year 1884-1885 [58]. Land and personal property was taxed; for Jefferson Cook it lists 160 acres (E-half of NW-quarter and E-half of SW-quarter, section 13, Twp. 10 south, range 1 east) and personal property of fire arms, sewing machine, farm utensils, wagon, harness, 2 Spanish horses, 40 cattle, 2 dozen poultry, 15 hogs, and 5 bee hives [58].

In March 1885, the San Diego Union published legal notices of Jefferson Cook's preemption claim on his land proving continuous residence and cultivation, with witnesses Angus McQueen, George W. Mendenhall, L. Peyreqne (Jean Louis Peyregne, 1828-1893), and August C. Kitching [32]. Also published in that same period were legal notices of George W. Mendenhall's homestead claim, with witnesses George V. Dyche, M. Galdos, H. Foussat, and J. Cook [32].

In February 1887, the National City Record published a list of delinquent taxes for San Diego county, noting that Joseph Winchester had a mortgage on the land of Jefferson Cook and owed taxes on it (E ½ of nw ¼, e ½ of sw ¼, sec 13, twp 10 south, range 1 east) [59].

In November 1889, the Pacific Rural Press published an agricultural report on Palomar Mountain by Clark Cleaver which mentioned Jefferson Cook's orchard, probably apples [35]:

Jefferson Cook has a little orchard just beginning to bear.

Jefferson and Lucinda Cook and their remaining family moved to Temecula at some point, likely in 1889 or earlier. Jefferson and Lucinda Cook probably moved to Temecula because their daughter Alice May Wright Cook was living there with her husband David Henry Warren (1855-1942). David Henry Warren had come to Temecula in 1876 and Alice had married him in 1878; they were still living there by 1892 according to a voter register [42]. Ida Bell Cook was 16 or 17 years old when her parents moved to Temecula, and undoubtedly moved with them since she didn't get married until 1896.

Jefferson and Lucinda Cook's daughter Susan, who was born in February 1870, is buried in Temecula, with her headstone noting she was twenty years old. Since Susan Cook died between February 1890 and January 1891 in her twentieth year, Jefferson Cook and family may have moved to Temecula from Palomar Mountain before her death.



In the 1900 U.S. Census Jefferson Cook's daughter Ida Bell Cook (June 17, 1872 – February 22, 1950) is listed as Rachel I.B. Mowbray. That 1900 census and an earlier marriage record list her as married to Charles D. Mowbray (August 31, 1869 – May 29, 1944) four years previously on June 17, 1896, when she was 24 years old; in 1900 she was living with him in Los Angeles with a stepson and her mother Lucinda Cook.

In July 1891, Jefferson Cook purchased two lots in Temecula for \$1 [38]. In 1947, these lots were sold in public auction for non-payment of taxes [60].

In January 1893, the San Diego Union printed an item about Jefferson Cook from the Julian Sentinel [29]:

Jefferson Cook of Temecula is at least one of the men who has done great service for his country, not only one but 117 of them, as the number of his descendants now living, seventy-five of them residing within the limits of San Diego county, the most of them on or near Smith mountain. The old gentleman is still hale and hearty and takes especial pride in his large and rapidly growing family. He is a native of Texas but came to San Diego many years ago.

Jefferson Madison Cook died in 1898 and is buried in Temecula.



Jefferson Cook's widow Lucinda Cook was living in Los Angeles County with her daughter Ida Bell Cook Mowbray in the 1900, 1910 and 1920 census. Lucinda Cook died in 1920 (L. Cook on gravestone), and her daughter Ida Cook Mowbray died in 1950; both are buried in Los Angeles.

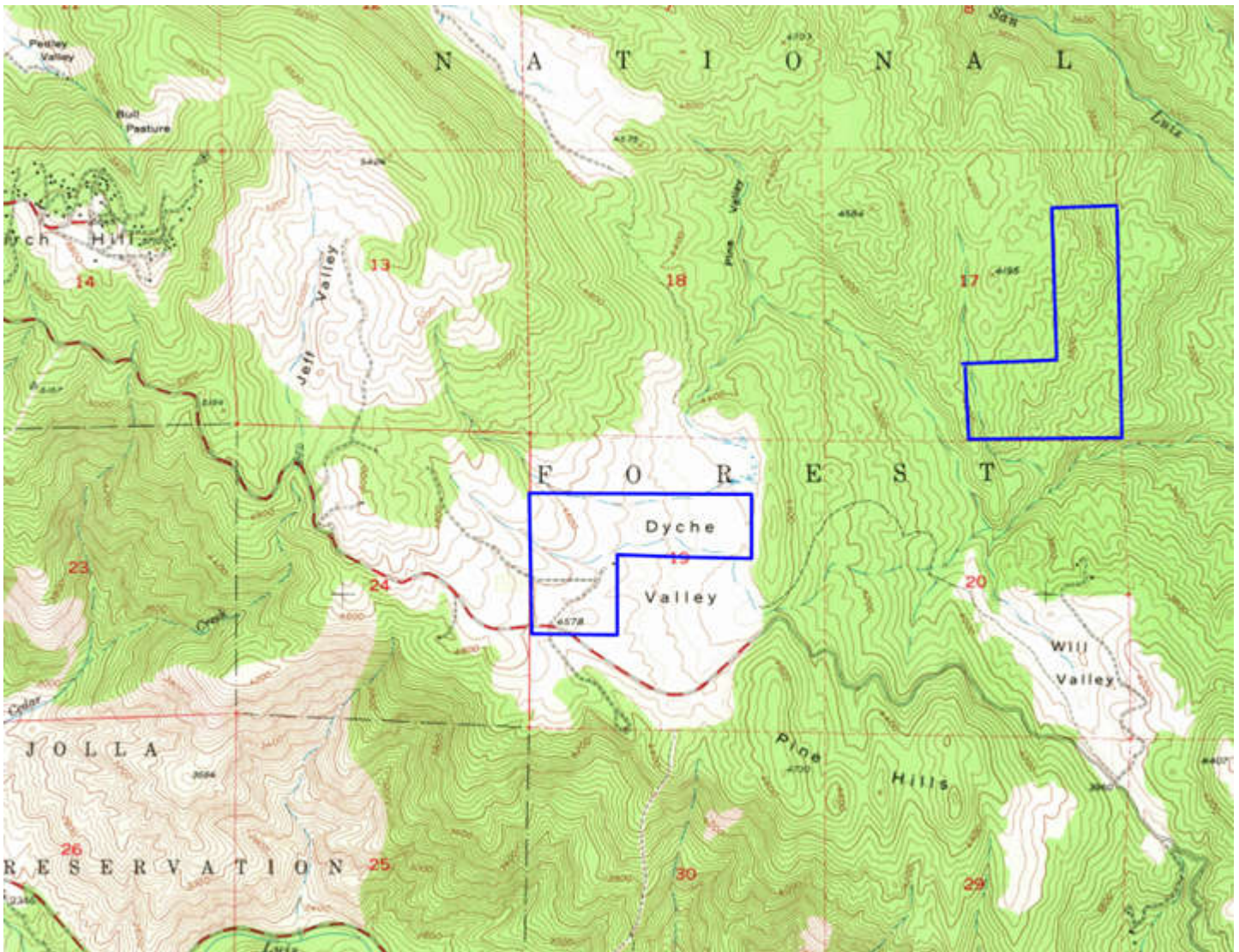


George Washington Cook (December 16, 1858 – May 16, 1921)

George Washington Cook married Hannah Emmaline Strong (January 4, 1862 – November 8, 1919) in 1878; she had arrived on Palomar Mountain in 1878 with her mother and stepfather [2,82].

Hannah Strong was the daughter of Sarah Elizabeth Jones (1845-1923), who had married William Lafayette Whitlock (1854-1927) after the 1875 death of her first husband Noah Barnum Strong; the Whitlocks were living in Pedley Valley on Palomar [2,5,82].

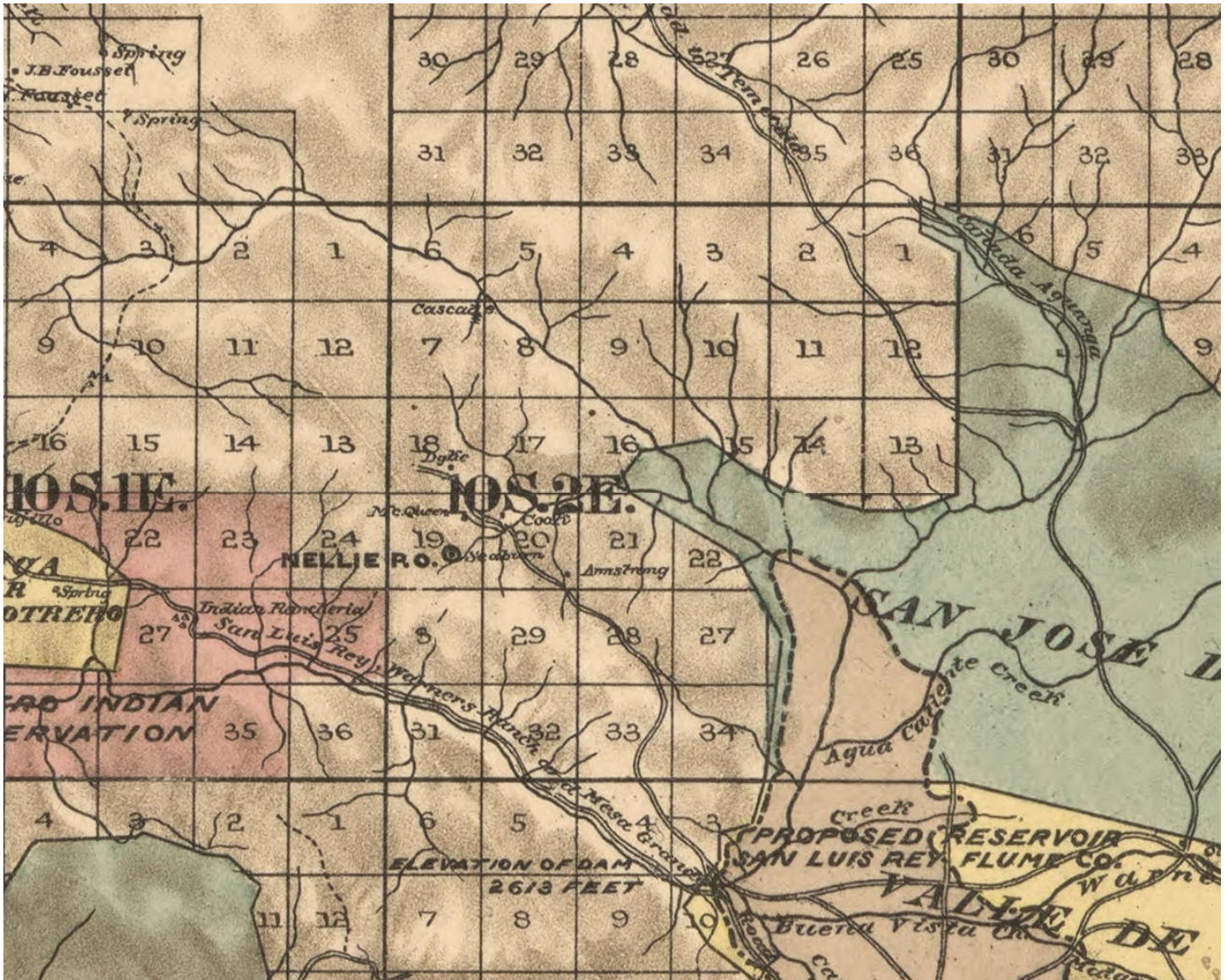
The children of George Washington Cook and Hannah Emmaline Strong were Ulric Thomas Cook (May 22, 1879 – October 8, 1957), Merton Fredrick Cook (February 25, 1887 – March 1, 1968), Dora Alice Cook Woods (January 29, 1890 – February 10, 1966), Cora B. Cook (1894 – ?), Laura Emma “Lucy” Cook Freeman/Bracamontes (June 4, 1896 – March 8, 1960), and Herbert James Cook (March 23, 1899 – September 21, 1983).



George Washington Cook property of 321.92 acres on Palomar Mountain, deeded 1886 and 1891 [21]

Cannot find George Washington or Hannah Cook in the 1880 census. George W. Cook was an election judge for the Malava School District in 1885, and an election inspector for Smith Mountain in 1888 [33,43].

In January 1886 and January 1887, George W. Cook was appointed as Road Overseer for the Smith Mountain district by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors [26,27]. In a June 1890 San Diego Weekly Union article on road expenditures in San Diego County, it was noted that G.W. Cook spent \$252.60 in the Smith Mountain District [44]. This news was followed in August 1890 that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors had granted a petition of Roy Johnson for a public highway in the Smith Mountain Road District and appointed Henrey Langrehr, Theodore Bailey and George W. Cook as viewers of the road [45]. This road ran up to Dyche Valley as seen on a contemporary map [40]. In September 1890, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors adopted the petition of the viewers of this road and declared it a public highway [57].



George Washington Cook's house in Dyche Valley is labelled 'Cook' in the middle of the map.

Excerpt from 1890 Official map of San Diego County, California [40]

George W. Cook signature on a Malava school document at San Diego History Center

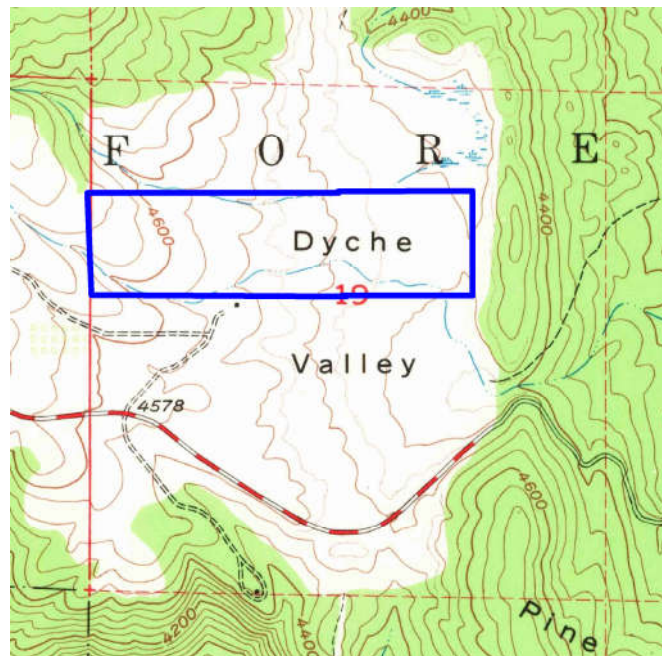
In July 1889, the Daily San Diegan published San Diego Chamber of Commerce agricultural news including [63]:

Ballena, June 28, 1889

Chamber of Commerce, San Diego

I send you herewith sample of timothy raised on Smith's mountain by George W. Cook in the Dyche valley. The seed was simply thrown on the ground without plowing or preparation of any sort, and it is now killing out the natural soil grass. The yield here per acre is tremendous. Very respectfully, F.R. SAWDAY

In April 1891, the San Diego Union published a notice that son George W. Cook had sold land in Dyche Valley for \$2,000 to his father Jefferson Cook (s hf of nw qr and sw qr of ne qr, sec 19, tp 10 s, r 2 e) [37].



George Cook's 1891 sale of land to Jefferson Cook

The School Census Marshal's Report, of Census Returns for Malava School District, San Diego County, to the County Superintendent for the School Year ending June 30th, 1891, lists G.W. Cook with one boy and one girl between five and seventeen years of age, and two children under five years of age [95]. The same report for the school year ending in 1893 lists him with two boys between five and seventeen years of age, and one child under five years of age [95]. The same report for the school year ending in 1895 lists him with two boys and one girl between five and seventeen years of age, and one child under five years of age [95]. The same report for the school year ending in 1897 lists him with one boy and one girl between five and seventeen years of age, and two children under five years of age [95]. The same report for the school year ending in 1898 lists him with two boys and one girl between five and seventeen years of age, and two children under five years of age [95]. The same report for the school year ending in 1899 lists him with one boy and two girls between five and seventeen years of age, and two children under five years of age [95]. The reports for the school years ending in 1900 and 1901 list the same as 1899 [95].

In a May 1891 San Diego Weekly Union article on a San Diego County Board of Supervisors meeting, it was noted that George Cook was paid \$13.70 from the Smith Mountain fund for road work [46].

In September 1891, the San Diego Union published a notice that father Jefferson Cook had sold that same 120 acres in Dyche Valley for \$32 to his son Hiram Cook (erroneously HE Cook) [34].

George Cook was listed as an election inspector for the Smith Mountain precinct in December 1891 [49].

On January 29, 1892, the San Diego Union published this item, with Cook's middle initial as "M" [47]:

A Belligerent Witness

Sylvester Mendenhall, a justice of the peace living at Smith Mountain, accompanied by his father, has been in the city several days as a witness in a trial before Judge Puterbaugh. In the trial evidence was brought out touching on the past life of George W. Cook, one of the witnesses. Cook was under the impression that Mr. Mendenhall and his son were responsible for the introduction of his history, and in talking the matter over with them last night he suddenly struck Mendenhall, Sr., a violent blow in the face with his fist and also struck at the justice. The two men filed a complaint and Cook was arrested later by Officer Cota on a charge of battery. He deposited \$15 for his appearance this morning and was released.

On January 29, 1892, the San Diego Union published this item on the case [48]:

Cook Discharged

The case of the people vs. George W. Cook, charged with battery, was heard before Judge Dudley yesterday. This is the case wherein Enos Mendenhall and his son, Sylvester Mendenhall, a justice of the peace at Smith Mountain, had some trouble with Cook, who struck Mendenhall, Sr., an old man 70 years of age, with his fist, discoloring his left eye. The evidence was conflicting, but went to show that the younger Mendenhall was talking with another man, when Cook came up and Mendenhall told him to not interrupt the conversation. This led to some words between the two men, and one or two ineffectual blows were struck, when the friend interfered. By the time, the older Mendenhall, seeing his son in trouble, advanced to his assistance. An eye-witness testified that the old gentleman went at Cook in a threatening manner, and that the latter struck him. At the close of the testimony the court dismissed the case.

In March 1892, the San Diego Weekly Union published a list of claims allowed by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, including \$26.25 from G.W. Cook of Smith Mountain for road work [50]:

In the San Diego County voter register for 1892, George W. Cook listed Smith Mountain as his residence and Nellie as his post office on August 2, 1892.

The Los Angeles City Directory and Gazetteer of Southern California for 1892 lists Cook & Cook (Geo. W. and H. M.), stockmen, at the Nellie Post Office [11].

George Cook is listed at the Nellie Post Office in the city and country directories for San Diego for 1893-94, 1897, 1899-1900, 1901-1902, 1906, 1907, 1908 and 1909 [12,14,15,16,17,18,19,20].

On December 20, 1893, the San Diego Union published that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors granted a petition asking for the appointment of George Cook as constable in the Smith Mountain township, and he was required to file a bond in the sum of \$1,000 [62].

In the San Diego Union newspaper of February 8, 1894, this item appeared [51]:

CONVICTED OF ADULTERY

A Country Dogberry Assumes High Judicial Powers.

Constable G. W. Cook of Malava, on the summit of Smith mountain, arrived in the city yesterday with Julio Rodriguez, who has been sentenced to one year in county jail in addition to a fine of \$800, for the crime of adultery. Rodriguez has a wife and two children and was a good husband and father up to two years ago, when he began to neglect his family. Not long ago he left home and set up housekeeping in the same neighborhood with a 16-year-old girl named Maria Los Angeles Trujillo, and his wife caused his arrest on the charge of adultery. Conviction and sentence followed. His family, left in destitute circumstances, will be cared for by his brother Juan, who has provided for them for over a year past.

The question no doubt will be raised as to whether Justice of the Peace Frazer exceeded his authority in trying Rodriguez on so serious a charge as adultery. It is plain that, exalted as Justice Frazer is among the pines of Palomar, he is hardly as high as a superior court magistrate in the eyes of the law, and the friends of Rodriguez will no doubt at once bring the matter to the attention of the district attorney.

This newspaper article insulted James Frazier of Smith Mountain by calling him “Dogberry,” who is a character in Shakespeare’s play *Much Ado About Nothing* and described in Wikipedia as a self-satisfied night constable with an inflated view of his own importance as the leader of a group of comically bumbling police watchmen. The Rodriguez case appears in the news subsequently. In the San Diego Union newspaper of February 9, 1894, this item appeared [52]:

OUT OF JAIL

Rodriguez Released on a Writ of Habeas Corpus

Julio Rodriguez, the Mexican who was brought to the county jail Wednesday from Smith mountain under sentence of one year’s imprisonment and a fine of \$800, imposed by Justice of the Peace James Frazer for the crime of adultery, was taken before Judge Puterbaugh yesterday on a writ of habeas corpus issued at the instance of Attorney Utle, and based on a petition signed by Rodriguez, in which it was stated that Justice Frazer had no jurisdiction in the matter of trying the prisoner on the charge in question. Judge Puterbaugh lost no time in ordering the prisoner’s discharge, and unless Rodriguez returns to his former home he may not be re-arrested.

In the San Diego Union newspaper of February 22, 1894, this item appeared [53]:

REGULARLY COMMITTED

Julio Rodriguez to Be Tried by the Proper Tribunal.

Julio Rodriguez, who was sentenced some time ago by Justice Frazer of Smith mountain to serve one year in the county jail and pay a fine of \$800 for the crime of adultery, and who was subsequently released on a writ of habeas corpus upon the grounds that the justice exceeded his authority in the case, was returned to the county jail yesterday upon the same charge to await trial in the superior court.

In the San Diego Union newspaper of April 8, 1894, this item appeared [54]:

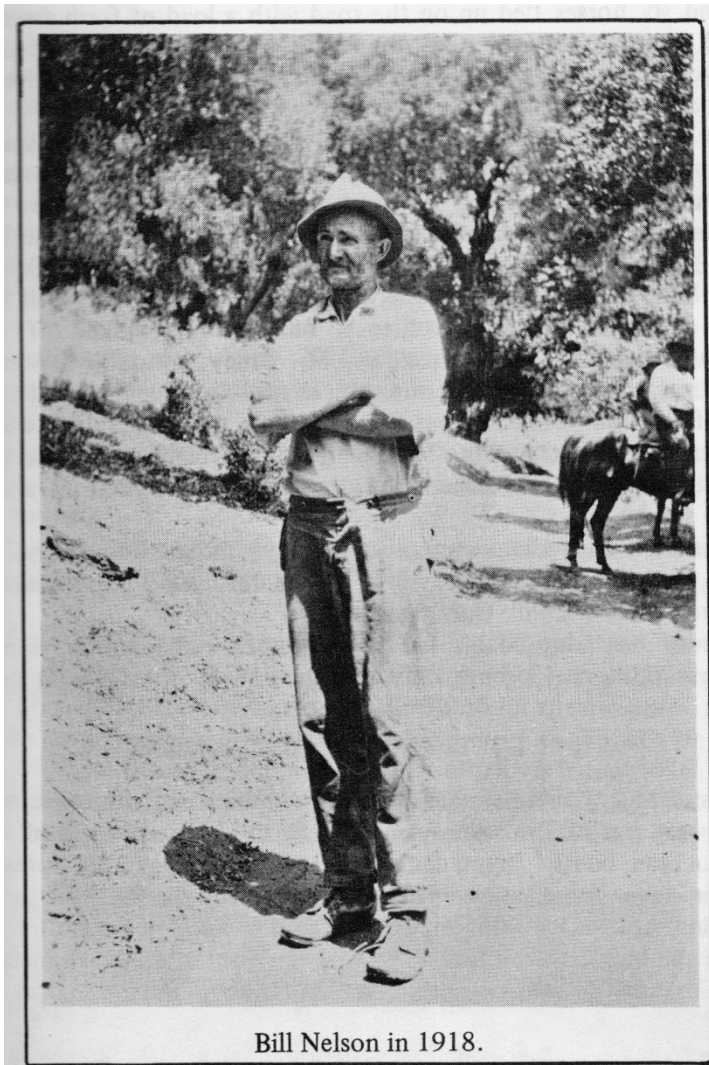
OFFENDERS SENTENCED

... Judge Puterbaugh also sentenced ... Julio Rodriguez, convicted of unlawful cohabitation, to nine months in the county jail.

George Cook was listed as an election ballot clerk for the Smith Mountain precinct in October 1894 and was appointed constable for the Smith Mountain township by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in November 1894 [64,65].

Edward Davis writes about George Cook in his *Palomar and the Stars* memoir [7]:

Will Van Dyche was born in 1868, and when he was one year old, the family moved to the Smith Ranch on Palomar and occupied the Joseph Smith house. The valley formerly owned by Smith was later known as the George Cook Valley and then it came into possession of the Mendenhall family. ... George Cook took up eighty acres and sold to Mendenhall. George Cook raised cattle and hogs. He was not an orchardist, although he plowed and cultivated his trees for some years, for at last he neglected them and most of them died. He ran his own freight team, but his brother Hiram did most of the driving and was his principal mule skinner. One year George boxed and sold hundreds of boxes and apples, delivering them at Temecula with his own teams, and that year his crop brought him ten thousand dollars. One year he shipped many boxes of a very large, beautiful apple, every one weighing no less than twenty-four to thirty-two ounces, each one as big as an infant's head, which were known as "Palomar Giants." These sold in San Diego for twenty-five cents each. Los Angeles Times November 19, 1895, page 11, column 4



Bill Nelson in 1918.

Edward Davis writes about George Cook and Bill Nelson in his *Palomar and the Stars* memoir [7]:

(George Cook) frequently called on Bill Nelson, an expert driver, to freight his apples to San Diego and haul back shooks [PB: shakes]. Some years ago on his way back to his ranch on the mountain, George stopped at the foot where the slide grade ended, to see if his team of six mules and load of apples were properly cared for. He had been in the saddle all day looking for cattle which had strayed from the home range. He had tracked them to Warner's Ranch but there lost the trail and his quest had been fruitless, so when he found his mule skinner had deserted his team and freight, with the sun far down in the west, George was in a towering rage. Loyalty to his team and freight is the unwritten law of a mule skinner, and if he wanted to quit his job it was his duty to notify his boss and deliver the team at the home ranch, but never desert it on the road. That alternative was unthinkable, but here was George's load of apples, stacked high on his

wagon, and the mules tied up in the small wire corral at the foot of the mountain near the San Luis Rey River, and no driver. This spot is now submerged by the waters of Lake Henshaw.

"The G—d--- s—of a b—, I'll bring him back or feed him to the buzzards." George was also a mule skinner, so his vocabulary on mules and drivers was extensive and picturesque and his cussing was deep and heartfelt. "I'll teach the G**D**S**O**B** to abandon my team on the road, even if he did have one of his brainstorms. I'll bring him back if I have to rope and drag him from the horn of the saddle."

George was an expert tracker and he soon picked up Bill's trail, which could easily be identified, as he wore the biggest shoes in the mountains, except one, and the hobnails made a certain pattern in the trail. This led, as George suspected, down the San Luis Rey River to La Joya, where Bill's Indian wife and children lived. Although his horse was leg weary, George rode at a gallop over a rocky, crooked trail, splashing through the San Luis Rey River, leaping obstructions, riding hell-bent down the river. The tracks got fresher as he went on and after three miles of furious riding, his horse in a lather, with heaving flanks, he caught up with Bill, who was taking long strides, hitting a lively pace for home ten miles distant. He could almost smell the nice warm supper of frijoles, tortillas, weewish (acorn meal), coffee and fruit, and feel a soft bed for the night, instead of the hard cold earth. The deserted team and load of apples he had entirely forgotten. George rode in front of him, pulled his gun, and said: "God damn you Bill, if you move another step this

way, I'll kill you sure as hell." Taken by surprise, Bill stopped dead in his tracks and looked George straight in the eye. The revolver never wavered and when Bill saw that cold deadly look in George's eyes, he knew George meant every word. "Get back to the team, Bill, and step lively." After a pause, Bill responded: "All right George, I had one of my spells and I just had to go. You know I'm subject to them and I can't help it." Without another word Bill wheeled around and back-tracked to the team. There were no hard feelings. He made several trips after that, and was the only driver George could trust. Both Bill and George have crossed the Great Divide and the valley is now owned by Louis Salmons (sold in 1946), but it still bears the George Cook name.

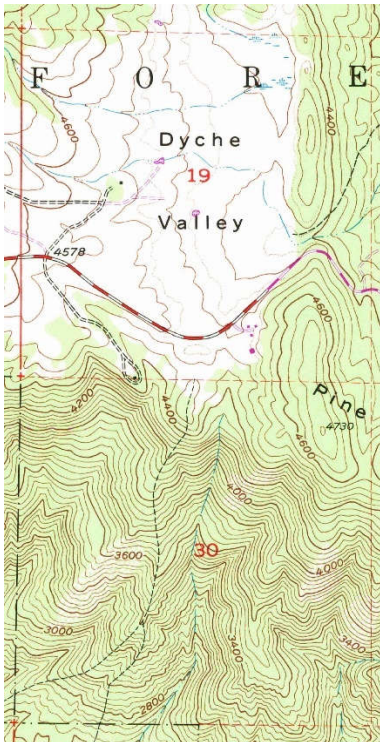
Edward Davis writes about George Cook in his *Palomar and the Stars* memoir [7]:

When George came to Palomar he was up against it, but he was an expert cowman and finally induced a rancher to pasture two hundred head of cattle on shares, and fifty-fifty on the increase. At branding time, when his partner was absent, George rounded up the stock and had Will Dyche help him rope the calves. George became plumb careless in branding, grabbing the first iron he came to and slapping it on a calf. Calf after calf went under the iron. The blating calves and bellowing cows was music in George's ears, and when the brands were counted, it was found due to George's carelessness, by far the greatest number of calves bore George's brand: "GC." George became famous as a cowman and soon accumulated quite a herd of his own.

Once a week, Miss Nellie McQueen saddled her horse, rode down Palomar Mountain, up through Mesa Grande to Ramona, returning next day with the mail for the Nellie Post Office on Palomar; George Cook sometimes assisted as carrier [5].

On October 21, 1897, the San Diego Weekly Union published [68]:

George Cook of Palomar mountain was down this week. He reports their apple crop very light.



In September 1898, the San Diego Union reported the sale of land of unspecified acreage in Dyche Valley section 19 and in section 30 to G.W. Cook from F.R. Sawday for \$2,500 [69].

On August 10, 1899, the San Diego Union printed [70]:

COUNTRY SQUIRE AGAIN.

He Irregularly Commits Francisco Cueva, Charged with Larceny

Francisco Cueva was brought to the city yesterday from Palomar mountain by Constable G.W. Cook to answer to the charge of grand larceny. It was claimed that Cueva had robbed a boy named Jose Albinos of \$39. The prisoner had his preliminary examination near Palomar and was supposed to have been bound over for trial in the superior court but an examination of the commitment papers showed that they had not been regularly issued and it is probable therefore that Cueva will be discharged.

Francisco Cueva was indeed discharged from custody [71].

The 1900 U.S. Census lists George and Hannah Cook on Smith Mountain with Mertin Cook, Dora Cook, Cora B. Cook, Laura Cook, and Herbert Cook. Voter registers list George W. Cook on Palomar in 1902 and 1906.

In February 1903, the San Diego Union reported on the annual fair of the San Diego District Agricultural association, including [76]:

The trades display of Fletcher, Doyle & Co., that is the apple portion of it, was grown by George Cook of Palomar mountain. ... There are over a hundred boxes of apples in the apple exhibit, and all were placed in cold storage by the commission company last fall, partly to keep them for this exhibit and partly to prove how well they would keep in storage.

On August 6, 1903, the San Diego Evening Tribune reported on the meeting of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, including this item on the East Grade road [75]:

The petition and viewers report in the matter of the application of G.W. Cook et al., for a road in the Fourth road district, being survey No. 213 and known as the Smith Mountain Road, were received and filed and September 9th, 1903, at 10 a.m. was fixed as the date of hearing when all objections will be heard.

On August 23, 1903, the San Diego Union reported [77]:

BOUGHT THE APPLE CROP

Ed Fletcher Closes Deal for Most of County's Product in Julian Belt

Fruit Will Net the Grower one Cent Per Pound – The Figures

Most of the apples raised this year in the Julian, Smith Mountain and Wynola districts have been purchased by Ed Fletcher of Fletcher Doyle and company, either for his own firm or others. This means about 20,000 boxes. Mr. Fletcher who has returned from a week's trip into the apple belt says that the crop will be large and of good quality. The yield in Smith mountain will be about 8000 boxes, Julian between 12,000 and 14,000 boxes, Wynola between 10,000 and 12,000. The returns from other sections of the county

will aggregate between 10,000 and 12,000 boxes. Most of it is winter fruit. The greater part of Mr. Fletcher's purchase will be placed in cold storage in San Diego.

Among the larger growers are" **Geo. Cook** of Smith mountain; Chester Gunn, W.D. Detrick and H. Morris of Julian, N.B. Rertum, Ford Bros. and H.J. Fuller of Wynola. The grower gets \$20 per ton for the apples on the trees or 1 cent per pound. The packing will be done by packers employed by the buyers and will be of standard grades. It will be nearly a month yet, however, before the picking is commenced.

On October 5, 1903, the San Diego Union reported [78]:

G.W. Cook has just completed the sale of his apple orchard and cattle range on Smith mountain to a Redlands man for \$14,000.

George Cook's property was sold to Louis Salmons, who was living in Pala and not Redlands [2].

On June 14, 1907, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported: [31]

George W. Cook, of Palomar Mts has been appointed constable of that township.

In March 1908, the San Diego Union reported on a criminal assault on one of George Cook's daughters by an employee of his dairy ranch [81].

In December 1908, the San Diego Union reported [79]:

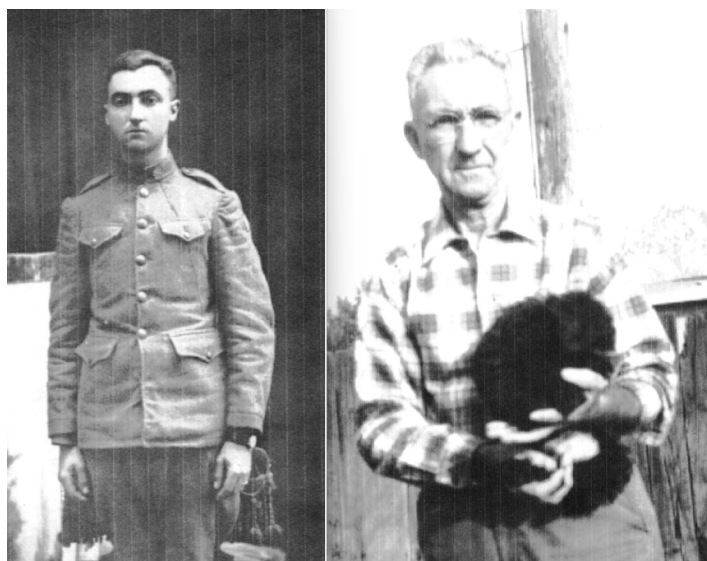
Among other recent lessors of land in the San Luis Rey Valley is Cook Bros., U.T., G.W., and M.F. Cook, who have leased for a term of three years 700 acres, being the tract formerly known as the Crouch property. [The Cook 'brothers' are George Washington Cook and his sons Ulric Thomas Cook and Merton Fredrick Cook.] The Cook Bros. were formerly the owners of the Cook ranch on Palomar mountain, which was bought not long since by Louis Salmons. They will engage in stock raising in the San Luis Rey. The land leased by them contains much which is suitable for the growing of alfalfa, and under the terms of the lease sixty acres must be planted to alfalfa the first year, forty the second, and the remainder of the suitable land the third season. The Cook Bros. will erect a six-room house on the property and a barn. The irrigation system will be improved and the property stocked with cattle and hogs. ...

In the 1910 U.S. Census, George W. and Hannah A. Cook and their children Merton, Cora, Laura, and Herbert as well as Ulric and his wife and children were enumerated in the San Luis Rey Township in April 1910.

Hannah Emmaline Strong Cook died November 8, 1919, and George Washington Cook died May 16, 1921.



George Washington Cook house in Dyche Valley, 1937. Edward Davis photo



Son Herbert James Cook, undated

Cook: likely George Washington Cook

Newspaper accounts mention Cook with no first name; the likeliest candidate is George Washington Cook.

In September 1889, the Daily San Diegan published a county travel story, including [88]:

Turning now to the west and ascending a heavy grade, the thrifty settlement of Smith Mountain is reached. Three owners here, Messrs. Cook, Dinwiddie and Dyche, have severally 200, 100 and 100 cattle each.

On July 21, 1897, the Riverside Independent Enterprise published [89]:

A Whisky Row at Warner's Ranch. Local Notes.

BERGMAN, July 20. – [Regular Correspondence.] – Bob Gun keeps a store with a bar attachment near Warner's. The whisky he dispenses is of the fighting kind. The latest to the credit of his fighting liquor happened Saturday morning. One Cook, of Smith Mountain, and Adams, of Oak Grove, were fighting, when a third party by the name of Rice took the part of Cook, whereupon Cook drew a knife across Adams' throat. The blood flowed freely, but no artery was severed. Rice and Cook finished the fight between themselves.

On the September 23, 1901, the San Diego Evening Tribune published this in an article on Palomar [90]:

... This has been a red-letter year for the Palomar fruit growers with apple orchards. The yield has been exceptionally large, and the apples are of better quality than usual. From the Cook orchard, which comprises 25 acres, there will be gathered this fall some 8000 boxes. This is just double the yield last year, and is by far the largest which the orchard has ever produced. Mr. Cook estimates that his crop will increase in equal proportion each succeeding year. If the conditions are as favorable next year he estimates that the yield will aggregate 16,000 boxes, and thereafter it will increase until the trees have attained their prime at the age of 30 years, when the crop will average from 25,000 to 30,000 boxes per annum. The trees now bear about ten boxes to the tree, but when they have reached their majority they will yield 40 boxes per tree. Mr. Cook has 65 trees of his own breed which he has named "Joint Palomar." The fruit is a mammoth red-cheeked apple, averaging from 16 to 29 ounces in weight. Some of the larger apples are at least six inches in diameter. From these 65 trees Mr. Cook this fall has taken 706 packed boxes, with about 100 boxes of culls. All these apples are of exceptional quality this year. Other orchardists on the mountain are enjoying their share of the general prosperity. ...

The San Diego Union noted in November 1901 [91]:

The Cook ranch, also on Smith mountain, produced 6,000 boxes of apples this season.

The San Diego Union noted in June 1902 [92]:

The Cook ranch, on Smith mountain, so the fortunate proprietor says, has never in his memory been so free from squirrels as since using the county poisoned wheat. ...

Hiram Madison Cook (May 27, 1865 – May 10, 1934)

In the 1880 U.S. Census Hiram Cook, age 15, was living with his parents Jefferson and Lucinda Cook on Palomar Mountain (recorded in June 1880 in the Agua Caliente Township wherein some Palomar Mountain residents are listed including such Palomar residents as George Doane, George Mendenhall, and George Dyche). When they were both seventeen, Hiram Madison Cook married Anice “Annie” Strong (December 8, 1865 – August 22, 1945) on December 25, 1882, whom he had met on Palomar Mountain [2,5,24,82].

Anice had arrived on Palomar Mountain in 1878 with her mother and stepfather William Lafayette Whitlock; she was the younger sister of Hannah Emmaline Strong [2,5,24,82]. The Whitlocks were living in Pedley Valley on Palomar [2,5].

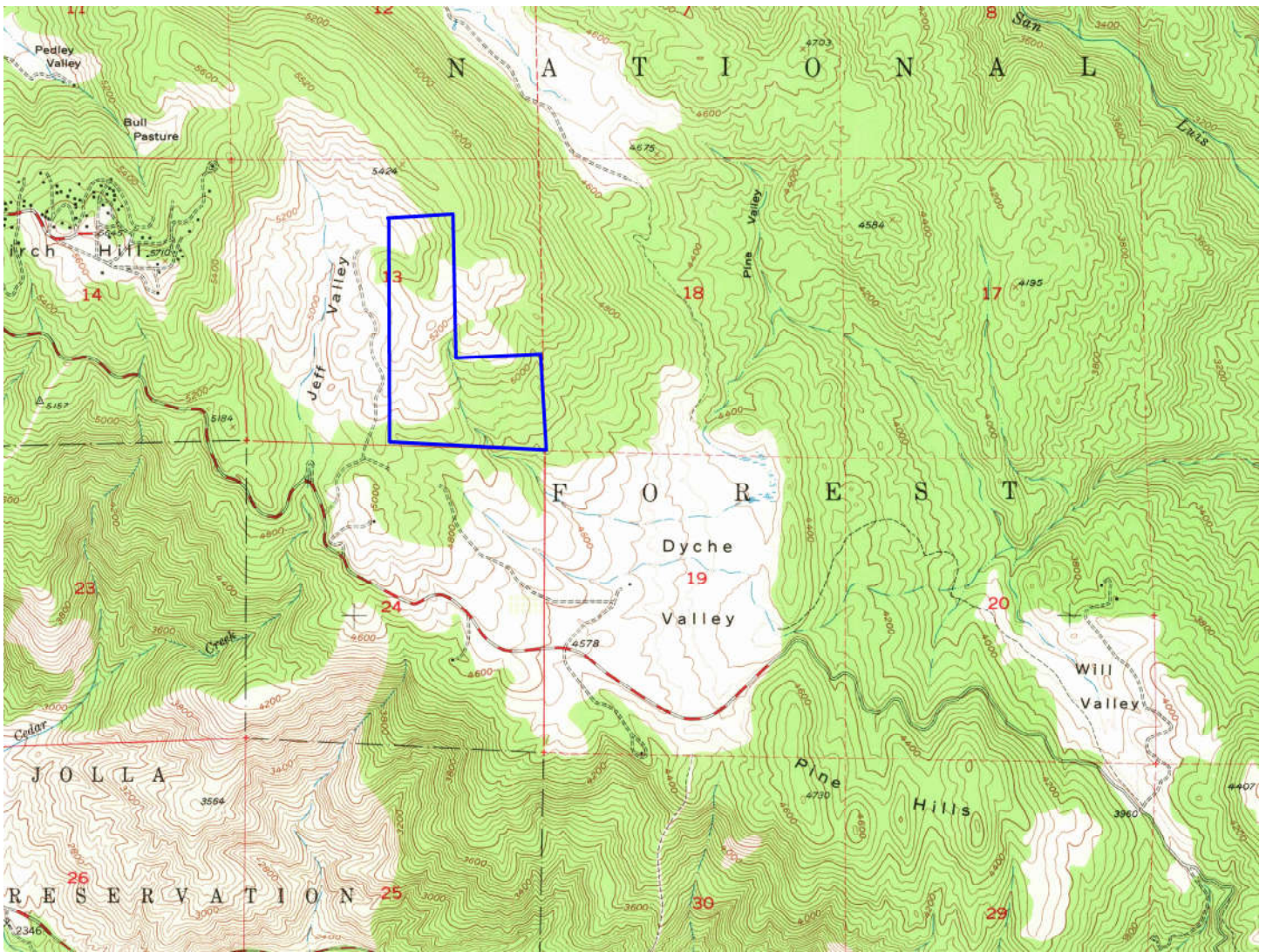
Hiram and Anice Cook’s children included Beulah Mae Cook Gates/Brady (June 14, 1888 – September 7, 1981), James Leonard Cook (January 9, 1891 – October 1, 1973), Clara Agnes Cook Griffith (August 1, 1893 – July 26, 1980), Frances ‘Fannie’ Elizabeth Cook Graham/Hastings (March 28, 1897 – February 11, 1945), Inez Blanche Cook Lee/Thornton (August 21, 1898 – September 8, 1988), Ralph Clifford Cook (March 26, 1901 – March 14, 1951), and Thelma G. Cook (1908 --) [2,10].



Hiram and Anice Cook family, c1901 [1 - jodavis39]

back row: James, Clara

front row: Beulah Mae, Hiram with Frances on his lap, Anice with Inez on her lap



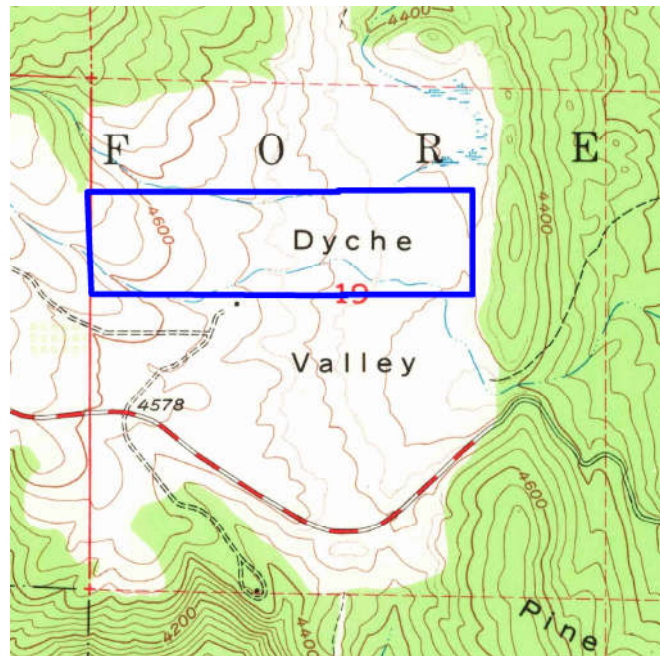
Hiram Madison Cook property of 160 acres on Palomar Mountain, deeded 1890 [21]

In January 1885, the National City Record published a list of delinquent taxes for San Diego County for fiscal year 1884-1885 [58]. Though land and personal property were taxed, only 160 acres belonging to Hiram Cook was listed/taxed (S-half of SE quarter, NW-Quarter of SE quarter and SW-quarter of NE-quarter, section 13, Twp. 10 south, range 1 east) [58]. The School Census Marshal's Report, of Census Returns for Malava School District, San Diego County, to the County Superintendent for the School Year ending June 30th, 1891 lists H.M. Cook with one child under five years of age [95],

Hiram Cook was listed as an election clerk for the Smith Mountain precinct in December 1891 [49].

Hiram M. Cook signature on an 1896 Malava school document at San Diego History Center

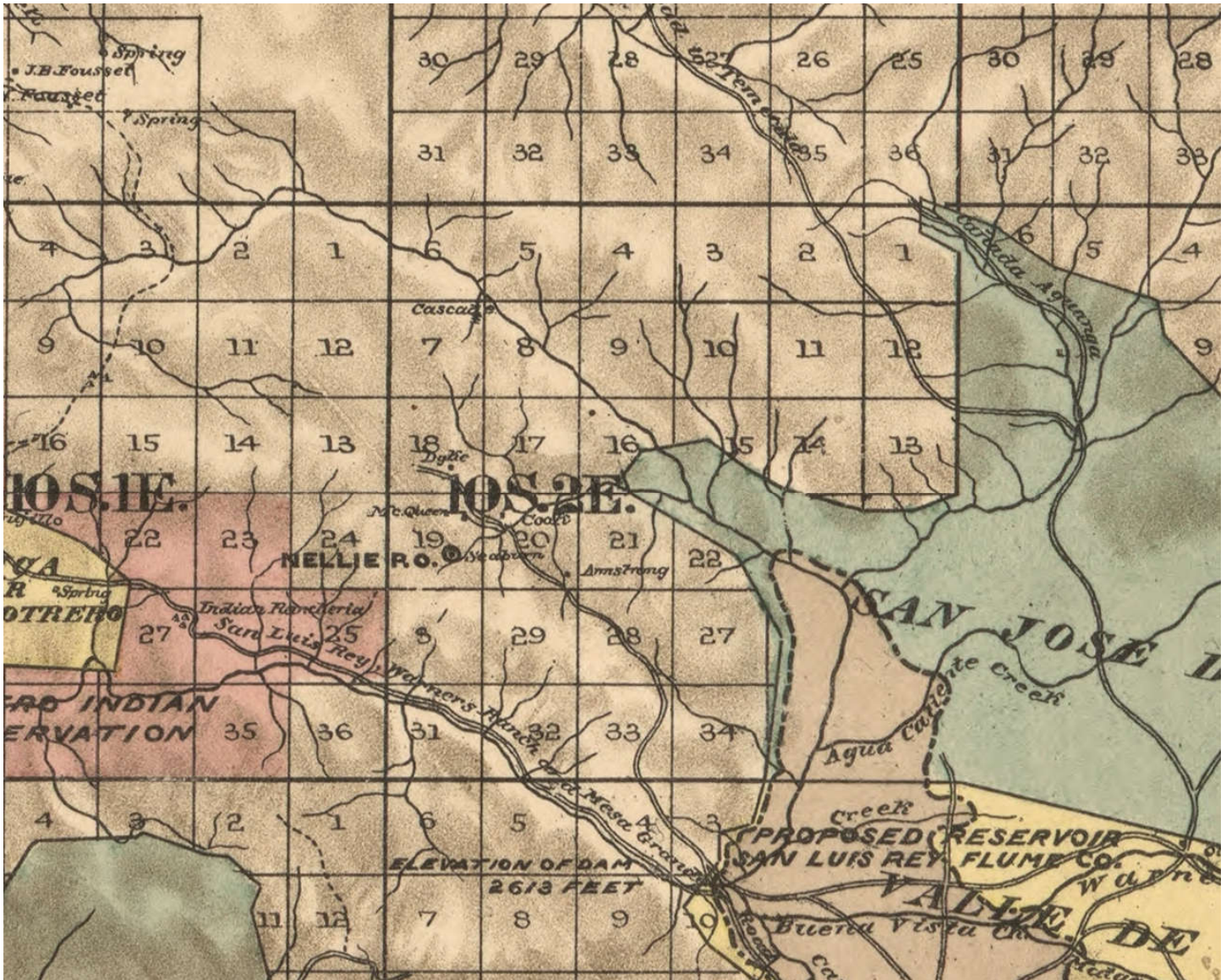
In April 1891, the San Diego Union published a notice that son George W. Cook had sold land in Dyche Valley for \$2,000 to his father Jefferson Cook (s hf of nw qr and sw qr of ne qr, sec 19, tp 10 s, r 2 e) [37]. In September 1891, the San Diego Union published a notice that father Jefferson Cook had sold that same 120 acres in Dyche Valley for \$32 to his son Hiram Cook (erroneously HE Cook) [34].



Jefferson Cook's 1891 sale of land to Hiram Cook

The School Census Marshal's Report, of Census Returns for Malava School District, San Diego County, to the County Superintendent for the School Year ending June 30th, 1891 lists H.M. Cook with two children under five years of age [95]. The same report for the school year ending in 1893 lists Hiram Cook with one girl between five and seventeen years of age, and two children under five years of age [95]. That 1893 report lists his residence in Section 24 of Township 10S, Range 1E [95]. The same report for the school year ending in 1896 lists H.M. Cook with two boys and two girls between five and seventeen years of age, and one child under five years of age [95]. The same report for the school year ending in 1897 lists H.M. Cook with two boys and one girl between five and seventeen years of age, and two children under five years of age [95]. The same report for the school year ending in 1898 lists Hiram Cook with one boy and one girl between five and seventeen years of age, and two children under five years of age [95]. The same report for the school year ending in 1898 lists Hiram Cook with one boy and two girls between five and seventeen years of age, and two children under five years of age [95]. The same report for the school year ending in 1901 lists H.M. Cook with one boy and three girls between five and seventeen years of age, and two children under five years of age [95].

Interviewing their daughter Beulah Mae Cook Gates, Marion Beckler writes that Hiram and Anice Cook lived in the Seburn House on Palomar, and their residence would have started after 1891 or 1892 [5]. Hiram and Anice Cook were married in 1882. Ambrose and Eliza Seburn likely left Palomar in 1891 or 1892 after Eliza Seburn resigned as postmaster and Ambrose Seburn's homestead land proved up [21,39]. A 1971 newspaper article on the Cooks said that Hiram and Annie Cook built a house a mile west of brother George's home; perhaps this location predated their living in the Seburn house [2].



Hiram Cook's house in Dyche Valley is labelled 'Seburn' in the middle of the map.

Excerpt from 1890 Official map of San Diego County, California [40]

In the San Diego County voter register for 1892, Hiram M. Cook listed Malava (on the east side of Palomar Mountain) as his residence and Nellie as his post office on August 2, 1892.

The Los Angeles City Directory and Gazetteer of Southern California for 1892 lists Cook & Cook (Geo. W. and H. M.), stockmen, at the Nellie Post Office [11].

On September 21, 1893, the San Diego Weekly Union published [61]:

H.M. Cook of Nellie, Smith mountain, brought down the finest load of apples last Friday ever offered for sale in Escondido. The apples in one big box averaged about 12 ounces each, while the largest ones weighed 16 and 17 ounces each. -- *Advocate*

The city and county directories for San Diego in 1895, 1897, 1899-1900, and 1901-1902 lists Hiram M. Cook at Nellie Post Office [13,14,15,16].

On November 26, 1895, the San Diego Union printed [66]:

Hiram Cook, of Smith mountain, passed through Escondido Friday. He says they have between three and four carloads of as fine apples as ever grew, which they have not yet sold.

On October 21, 1897, the San Diego Weekly Union published [68]:

Hiram Cook of Palomar will bring a herd of dairy stock to Escondido to winter, and will supply the creamery with milk.

In the 1900 U.S. Census (tallied August 1900), Hiram and Anice Cook were living in Downey, California with five children. On October 18, 1900, the San Diego Weekly Union printed election notices that included H.M. Cook as an election officer for Smith Mountain [74].

In 1901, Hiram and Anice Cook with six children (Beulah Mae, James Leonard, Clara Agnes, Fannie Elizabeth, Inez Blanche, Ralph Clifford) left Palomar, moving to Valley Center [82]. The Hiram Cook family first lived in a large house on the east side of Lake Wohlford Road and south of Valley Center Road [82]. Then they moved south to a house west of the boundary of the Guejito Ranch, and then to Lime Street a couple of miles north of Escondido [82].

In December 1905, the Escondido Times published [80]:

Hiram M. Cook has returned from Bernardo and is now engaged in delivering freight to Mr. Sparks' store at Rincon. Mr. Cook is using twelve head of horses and two heavy dray wagons.

On October 17, 1909, the San Diego Union published [72]:

At Valley Center hall this evening James Helms gave a farewell dance in honor of Cass Hufstetler and Hiram Cook and family, who are about to leave for Tehachapi Pass. Cook and Hufstetler are pioneer citizens of the Escondido country. Cook has been a resident of Palomar mountain for many years.

Hufstetler may be spelled Hofstetler or Hufstutler in sources.

In the 1910 U.S. Census, Hiram and Anice Cook were living in Township 1, Kern County, California. In 1916, the Hiram Cook family were again living in Valley Center, and by 1918, were living in Imperial Valley operating a dairy farm [82]. In the 1920 U.S. Census, Hiram and Anice Cook were living in Strathmore, Tulare County, California. In the 1930 U.S. Census, Hiram and Anice Cook were living in Escondido.

The Escondido Times-Advocate published this on February 27, 1933 [73]:

MR. AND MRS. HIRAM COOK

Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Cook, 435 West Fifth avenue, Escondido, are new members of The Union's True Vow Keepers' club. Recently they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the home of their son, J. Leonard Cook, Poway. Present on that happy day were all of their six children: Mrs. W.M. Gates, Mrs. J.T. Lee, both of Escondido; Mrs. R.O. Griffith,

Mojave; Mrs. L.E. Graham, Los Angeles; R.C. Cook, Santa Ana, and the host J. Leonard Cook.

Mr. and Mrs. Cook truly are pioneers of San Diego county, as their parents were among the earliest settlers of Palomar mountain or Smith's mountain as it was then called. Hiram Cook came by wagon train from Texas at the age of two years, his parents first settling in the Campo country, later moving onto Smith's mountain. Anice Strong, who afterwards became the bride of Mr. Cook, came overland also with her parents from Indian territory. After their marriage they made their home on the mountain and planted one of the first apple orchards on what is now known as the Louis Salmons ranch. Here their children were born and raised, attending the little Mountain school.



Beulah Cook Brady and Inez Cook Thornton, 1966 [83]

Hiram Cook died May 10, 1934, and Anice Cook died August 22, 1945.

William H. Cook (1847 – December 24, 1912)

Will Valley on Palomar Mountain is named after **William H. Cook**, a son of Jefferson Cook from his first marriage.

William H. Cook was born in 1847 in Arkansas to Jefferson Cook and his first wife Mary "Polly" Jones.

William H. Cook married Susan Irene Merchant (July 1840 – April 7, 1929) in Burleson, Texas on February 5, 1866; this was her second marriage after her first marriage to Thomas Justice who died from a Civil War injury (1840-1863).

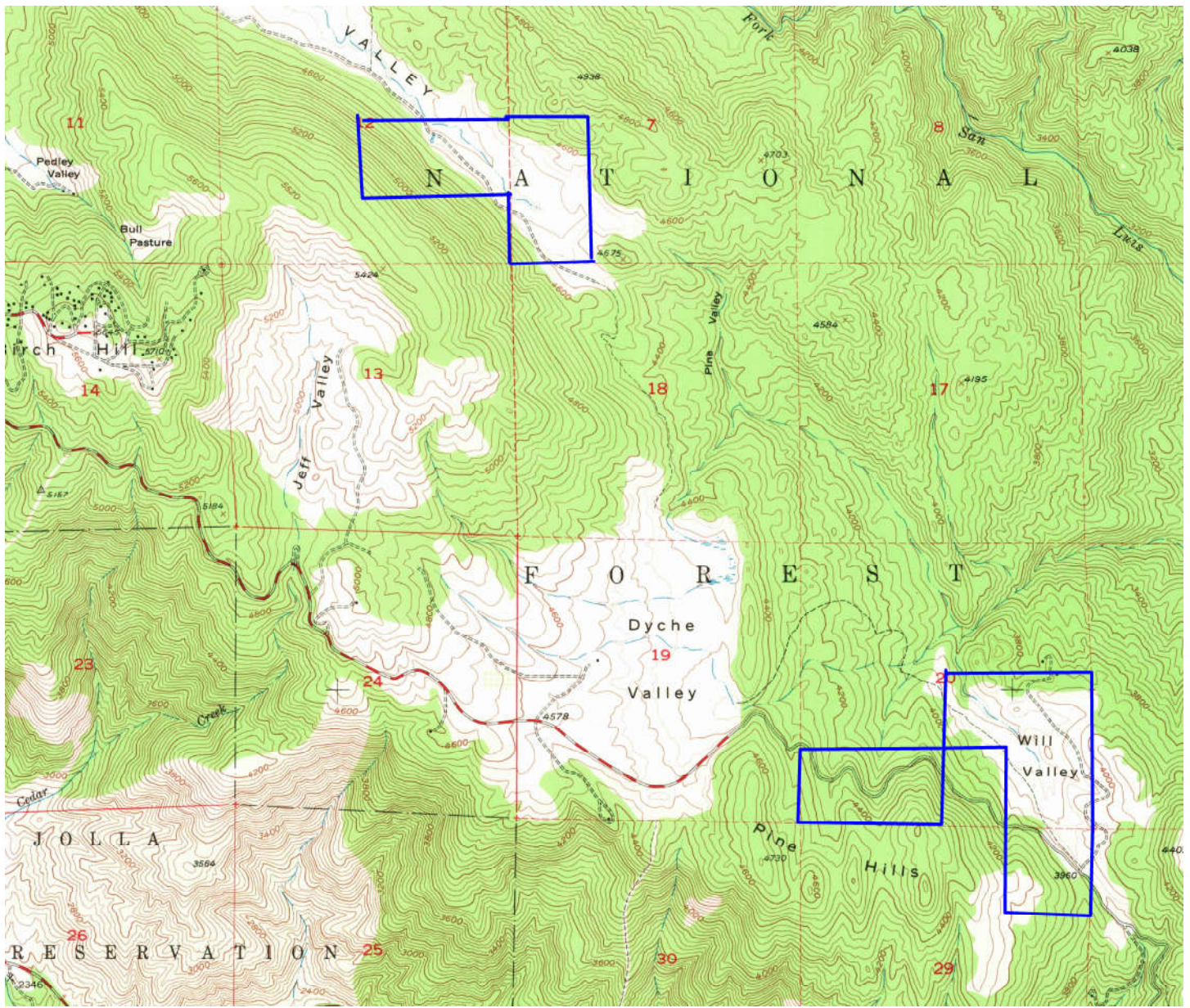
William H. Cook's 1912 obituary in the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate said he "crossed the plains in 1867, in company with Wm. Justice" [30]. William Justice was living in Milam County, Texas at age 14 in the 1860 U.S. Census, and then living with his family and his mother in the Los Nietos Township in Los Angeles County (which is adjacent to Downey) in the 1870 U.S. Census.

A San Diego County voter register lists William Cook, age 21, born in Arkansas and a farmer in Green Valley, sworn in on July 30, 1869. Green Valley is in the Cuyamaca Mountains in San Diego County.

In the 1870 U.S. Census, William and Susan Irene Cook were enumerated in the Los Nietos Township in Los Angeles County, with their first two children Reni (Millie Irene) and Mary.

After William Cook's father Jefferson Cook arrived on Palomar Mountain in 1877, William Cook, age 31, born in Arkansas, a farmer in Norwalk, was registered to vote in Los Angeles County on June 12, 1879, and William and Susan Cook were enumerated in the Los Nietos Township in Los Angeles County in the 1880 U.S. Census.

The children of William and Susan Cook were Millie Irene Cook Woods (October 24, 1866 – December 22, 1961), Mary Emeline Cook Belshe (July 1869 – December 29, 1902), William Allen Cook (April 23, 1871 – March 4, 1951), Margaret Pearlee Cook Reed (August 6, 1873 – August 24, 1961, born in Downey), Churchill Cook (November 1875 – March 4, 1907), Susan Orange Cook Harding (May 1, 1878 – April 29, 1944), and Adabelle Cook Burdick (January 5, 1880 – July 20, 1959) [30].



William H. Cook property of 402.88 acres on Palomar Mountain, deeded 1883 and 1890 [21]

William H. Cook and family came to Palomar sometime after that 1880 U.S. Census, purchasing 162.88 acres in eastern Mendenhall Valley on Palomar Mountain in August 1883 [21]. Then William Cook filed a homestead entry on 160 acres in Will Valley on Palomar Mountain in 1885 (five years before gaining title to that homestead land in 1890) [21].

In January 1885, William Cook was appointed the Road Overseer for the Smith Mountain district by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors [25]. In January 1886, William Cook resigned as Road Overseer for the Smith Mountain district and his brother George W. Cook was appointed to fill the vacancy by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors [26].

William Cook was a Malava School District trustee in 1885 [33].

In June 1885, the San Diego Sun reported [55]:

William Cook and Frank Wright had an exciting combat with an enormous mountain lion on the 12th instant on Smith's mountain. The two gentlemen were out after game, Cook

with a shotgun and Wright with his rifle, when the lion was observed on an adjacent hillside, in full view. He was several hundred yards distant, but a ball from Wright's rifle penetrated his body. The only effect the bullet had was to cause the enraged monster to spring savagely ahead towards the two hunters. Seven bullets were lodged in him before his progress was stopped. On an examination of the body it was found that he was indeed a fine representative of his species. From the end of his tail to his nose he measured just seven feet, and weighed somewhat near a hundred pounds. The skin was taken off, and is preserved as a trophy of the chase. The gentlemen are very well satisfied that the enraged animal reached no nearer to them before receiving his death-wound.

William Cook was an election inspector for the Smith Mountain precinct in August 1887, and an election judge for same in September 1888 [28,43].

William Cook purchased 80 adjacent acres west of Will Valley in January 1890 [21]. The William Cook family moved off Palomar Mountain sometime after 1890. In January 1890, William Cook of Smith Mountain was in the candidate list for the San Diego County Grand Jury selection [56].

In the 1900 U.S. Census, Susan Cook was living with her son Church Cook (age 24) and her daughter Susan Cook (age 22) in Bear Valley (Valley Center). William Cook doesn't appear with his wife in that census. William and Susan Cook lived about one-fourth mile off Vesper Road near Mctan Road in Valley Center [82]. Father William Cook and son Church Cook are listed in the 1902 San Diego County voting register in Bear Valley (Valley Center), with their ages corresponding to 1901, one year earlier.



Millie Irene Cook, the firstborn of William H. Cook, and her husband Joseph Lee Woods, undated.

William H. Cook and Susan Irene Merchant's first child, Millie Irene Cook had been married for fifteen years by the time of the 1900 U.S. Census and was living in Bear Valley (Valley Center) with her husband Joseph Lee Woods. Millie Irene Cook had probably moved onto Palomar Mountain with her parents and then met her husband locally, marrying him in 1885, when she was twenty-one years old.

In the 1910 U.S. Census, William Cook and his wife Susan were living with their daughter Margaret's family in Redlands, California.

William H. Cook died on December 24, 1912, and his obituary in the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate said he "came to Escondido to reside two years ago [30]."

Cook brothers

Newspaper accounts reference the 'Cook brothers' on Palomar or Smith Mountain. In the same generation and given their activity on Palomar Mountain one expects the 'Cook brothers' to be George Washington Cook, Hiram Madison Cook, and William H. Cook.

On August 23, 1895, the San Diego Union published [84]:

The chamber of commerce received the following donations yesterday: ... apples, prunes, plums and green gages, Cook Bros., Smith mountain.

On September 7, 1895, the San Diego Union published [85]:

J.S. Mumford has received specimens of monster apples grown by Cook Bros. on Smith mountain, in this county. They are the largest ever seen here. Some weigh twenty-nine ounces each and measure fifteen inches in circumference. They are the Roland Gillette variety. A big box of them will occupy a prominent place during the celebration, labeled "Native Sons and Daughters."

The apple variety name Roland Gillette was perhaps misheard by the newspaper reporter, there seemingly being no such variety; perhaps it was said they were Rome apples developed by Joel Gillette.

A HEARTY WELCOME!

Is extended to our visiting friends, Native Sons and others.
We trust you will all hugely enjoy yourselves and that
you will long remember Admission Day in San Diego.
Call around and see us and we will show you some
San Diego county apples, the "Roland Jeanette," raised
by Cook Bros. on Smith Mountain.

They weigh from 16 to 27 ounces each, and are probably the largest and nicest apples
you ever saw.

Best Arabian Mocha and Java Coffee 3 pounds for	1 00
Pickled Cauliflower, plain and mixed pickles and chow-chow, per bottle.....	15
Compressed Cooked Corn Beef, sliced, 2 pounds for.....	25
Nice northern Burbank Potatoes, per hundred pounds.....	1 00
Cudahy's Rex Hams and Bacon, per pound.....	14
Fresh Apples (45 pounds net weight) per box.....	\$1 00
Eagle Brand Condensed Milk, 3 cans for.....	50
Full line of Cakes and Cookies, strictly fresh, per pound.....	15
Nice firm San Diego Olives, per quart.....	20
Itata Washing Powder, no better made, 3-pound package for.....	20
Itata, Royal Savon, Ray Queen and Tea Lily Soap, 23 bars for.....	\$1.00
Plain or Mixed Pickles in bulk, 3 quarts for.....	25
New crop White Sage Honey, 1-pound cards.....	10
New crop White Sage Strained Honey, nicest you ever saw, 3 pounds for.....	25
Indian hand made Ollas, per gallon.....	20
Tanglefoot Fly Paper, 10 double sheets for.....	25
Rock Salt for freezing Ice Cream, per pound.....	01
Gifford's home-made Virgin Olive Oil, strictly pure, in pints and quarts..60c and \$1.00	

All goods advertised in the above list can be obtained at the same price at
Schaeffer & Mumford's Store in Otay.

J. S. Mumford.

A news item on Palomar apple quality appeared in the San Diego Union in November 1895 [85]:

Smith Mountain Apples. A. Cosgrove, who took along a basket of Smith mountain apples on his recent trip to New York city, found that they created a greater surprise among commission men than he anticipated. The apples of mammoth size and excellent quality, were exhibited on the Erie pier and on State street and commission men could not believe they were from Southern California. A letter has been received at Escondido by Cook Bros., from a firm in New York highly praising the fruit, and stating that such apples would command a high figure in London, Liverpool or Havanna.

The San Diego Union had this note in November 1895 [86]:

Smith Mountain Apples. The apple crop on Palomar mountain is now gathered, writes a correspondent. The Cook brothers have about 1,500 boxes. Mendenhall, Bailey and Cleaver have a few boxes, making in all a hundred or so boxes more. The trees, except a very few are under four years old, but all the mountain apples are very fine and large. Ben Davis, Nickajacks [PB: misspelled Nichajacks], Smith's Cider [PB: misnamed Smith Cider], Northern Spy and other varieties frequently averaging ten ounces as gathered from the tree, and keep with but ordinary care till apples come again. There is also the Palomar Giant apple, weighing 25 ounces and even as much as 30 ounces. The mountain land seems to be in every way adapted to the deciduous fruits, and no irrigation is necessary, as orchardists raise all varieties of crops without any moisture except what comes from the clouds direct.

On October 5, 1899, the San Diego Union reported on a fire on Palomar Mountain for which the Cook brothers were instrumental in halting the fire [9]:

FIRE ON PALOMAR

FLAMES' DESTRUCTIVE WORK.

MILES OF VALUABLE TIMBER WERE BURNED

Exciting Times for the Ranchers – Mr. Bougher's Deliberate Firing of His Timber Tract in Order to Save His House and Orchard

Mrs. H.B. Restarick and children returned yesterday from a four months' outing on Palomar mountain, much refreshed by the clean, pure mountain air and their stay among the pine trees. The most important incident of their sojourn was the forest fire of last week and the week before, which swept over the west end of the mountain for a distance of eight miles and along the north side for fifteen miles, destroying the best part of the timbered portion of the mountain. Mrs. Restarick says that the fires died down last week, and although a wreath of smoke may yet be seen here and there, there is no fire, and no danger now. Just how the fire started is not known. It was first noticed in the direction of Oak Grove, and swept up the north side of Palomar mountain, burning furiously among the pine trees. It was a week before it reached the summit, and there its southerly course was stayed, probably by the canyons, but it continued east and burned for a number of days longer. On the west end of the mountain it came clear over and swept down the south side, almost reaching Pala. By backfiring along the road leading over the mountain the fire was prevented from spreading along the south side and through the inhabited part of that section.

Those were exciting times for the residents of the mountain. The men worked night and day to fight the fire fiend and the women helped by carrying water. The men confined their efforts principally to backfiring in order to turn the course of the flames. A Mr. Bougher set fire to his own timber in order to save his house and orchard. He said that the striking of the match and the setting on fire of his own property was the hardest thing he ever did in his life. It was an unusually fine tract of timber and was of considerable value. It was realized that if the timber were not burned the fire would destroy the house, and it was therefore arranged that Mr. Doane should set fire to the tract. Mr. Doane declined to strike the match at the last moment, and Mr. Bougher was therefore compelled to set fire to his own property. The timber burned but the house and orchard were saved.

The home of the Misses Frazer [Maria and Elizabeth Frazier] on the northeastern part of the mountain was saved by the heroic efforts of the **Cook brothers**. The Misses Frazer live alone on that part of the mountain, and by hard work have brought a fine ranch cut of the wilderness. Each took up a government claim, and with pick and shovel built a road three miles long down the mountain into the valley where their property is located. They make a living by raising cattle, chickens, and bees, and one of them carries the mail between Nellie and Jessee postoffices. The fire swept directly toward their place, and had it not been for the work of the **Cook brothers** in backfiring, the premises would undoubtedly have been devastated. A great many people have timber claims on the mountain, and the trees on a number of these claims were destroyed. The beautiful Waterfall canyon was burned out and Doane valley was only saved by backfiring. The flames swept along the northern end and west of the valley. The only buildings destroyed were two small uninhabited houses. Last week the ashes from the fire fell in Escondido, twenty-five miles away, and even the heat was felt at that place. A Mr. Scott, who assisted in fighting the fire, has been dangerously ill ever since, and doubts for his recovery are entertained.

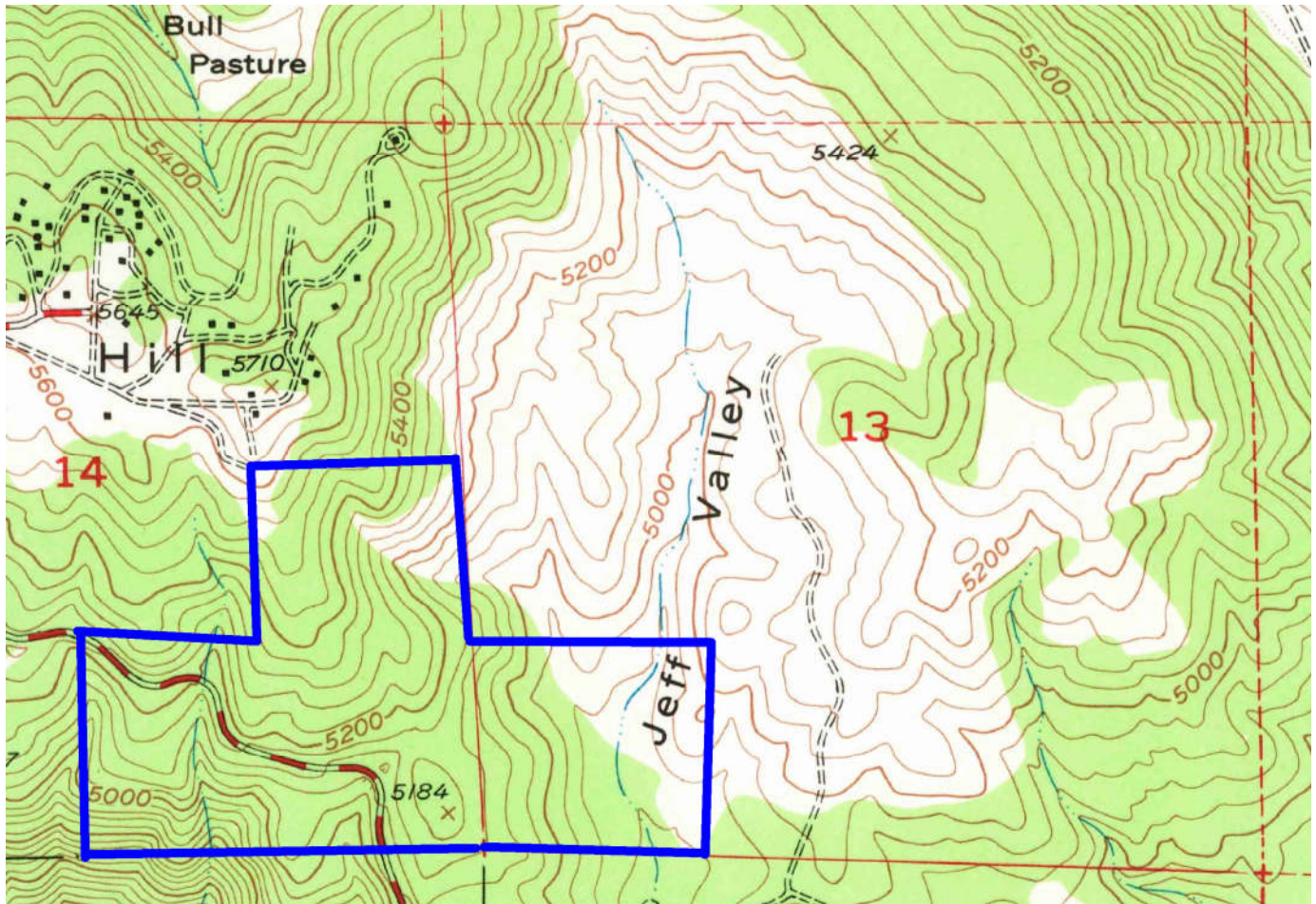
Mrs. Restarick says that the burning trees, especially at night, presented a grand and beautiful sight. The red glare of the fire could be seen for miles, and the flames as they shot up the trees were also visible from nearly every part of the mountain. ...

The San Diego Union noted in November 1902 [87]:

... One of the finest lots of apples grown this year, comes from the Cook Bros. ranch, on Palomar mountain. ...

An exception to the usual identity of the Cook brothers is a December 1908 article in the San Diego Union which refers to the Cook Bros. with the initials U.T., G.W., and M.F. Cook [79]. In this news item the Cook brothers are not brothers but are George Washington Cook and two of his sons Ulric Thomas and Merton Fredrick.

Thomas Jefferson Cook (June 24, 1868 – January 24, 1935)



Thomas Jefferson Cook's land with delinquent taxes for 1884 [58]

In the 1880 U.S. Census records, Thomas Cook, age 12, was living with his parents Jefferson and Lucinda Cook on Palomar Mountain (recorded in June 1880 in the Agua Caliente Township wherein some Palomar Mountain residents are listed including such Palomar residents as George Doane, George Mendenhall, and George Dyche).

In January 1885, the National City Record published a list of San Diego County delinquent taxes for fiscal year 1884-1885 [58]. A. J. Cook (probably Thomas Jefferson Cook) land and property was taxed; the land was described as: E-half of SE quarter, SW-quarter of SE-quarter, section 14, SW quarter of SW quarter, section 13, Twp. 10 south, range 1 east 160 acres [58]. The personal property was described as: watch, furniture, sewing machine, wagon, harness, 2 half breed horses, 1 Spanish horse, 1 cow, 2 mule, and 3 hogs [58].



Thomas Jefferson Cook and Norah Cassie Hufstetler, undated [1 –

Bramlett/Cook/Hufstetler/Wallace/Torres/Sanchez/Vicenta Family Tree]

Thomas Jefferson Cook married Norah Cassie Hufstetler (April 17, 1873 – October 12, 1967) in 1889, and their children included Harvey A. Cook (1899 – ?), Vada Nadine Cook Bramlett/Switzer (May 2, 1892 – August 7, 1956), Chattie Ewen Cook (September 27, 1894 – March 2, 1979), Lester or Dan Melvin Cook (February 6, 1899 – November 3, 1961), Calvin Oscar Cook (March 16, 1901 – July 16, 1976), and Lena Arba Cook Gomez (October 20, 1904 – November 6, 1998).

In the San Diego County voter register for 1892, Thomas Cook listed Murrieta as his residence and post office on August 2, 1892.

In the 1900 and 1910 U.S. Census, Thomas J. and Nora C. Cook were living in Downey, California.



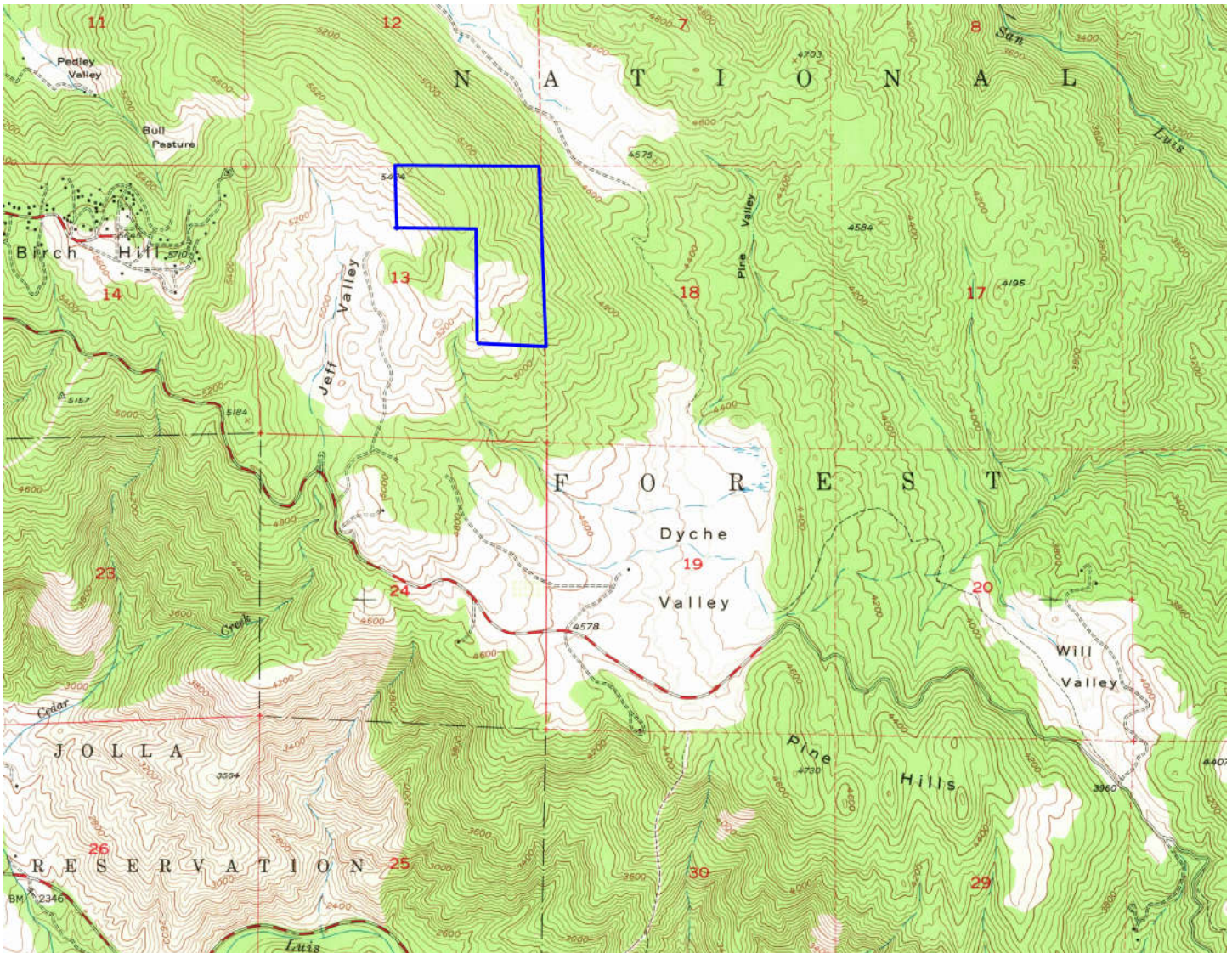
Thomas Jefferson Cook died January 22, 1935, and his wife Norah Cassie died October 12, 1967; they are buried in Turlock, California.

Ulric Thomas Cook (May 22, 1879 – October 8, 1957)

Ulric Thomas Cook was the son of George Washington Cook and Hannah E. Strong; he was issued a marriage license to Annie Lucinda Fry on December 24, 1896. The San Diego Union newspaper published marriage licenses issued on December 24, 1896, including “Thomas Ulric Cook, aged 17, and Annie Lucinda Frye, aged 17, both natives of California and residents of Smith mountain, the consent of the girl’s guardian, Hiram Cook, and the boy’s father, George W. Cook, accompanied the application [96].” The 1900 U.S. Census lists him on Smith Mountain, married for three years to Anna Cook, with children Ella, age 2, and Ethel Cook, age 1 [67].

The School Census Marshal’s Report, of Census Returns for Malava School District, San Diego County, to the County Superintendent for the School Year ending June 30th, 1898 lists T.U. Cook with one child under five years of age [95]. The same report for the school year ending in 1899 lists T.U. Cook with two children under five years of age [95]. Following reports for the school years ending in 1900 and 1901 list Ulric Cook with two children under five years of age [95].

The San Diego City and County Directory, 1901 for the Year March 1901 to March 1902 lists Ulric Cook at the Nellie Post Office [16]. The voter register ‘Index to Great Register of San Diego Co., Cal. 1902, Palomar Precinct’ lists Ulric T. Cook on Palomar at the Jessie Post Office.



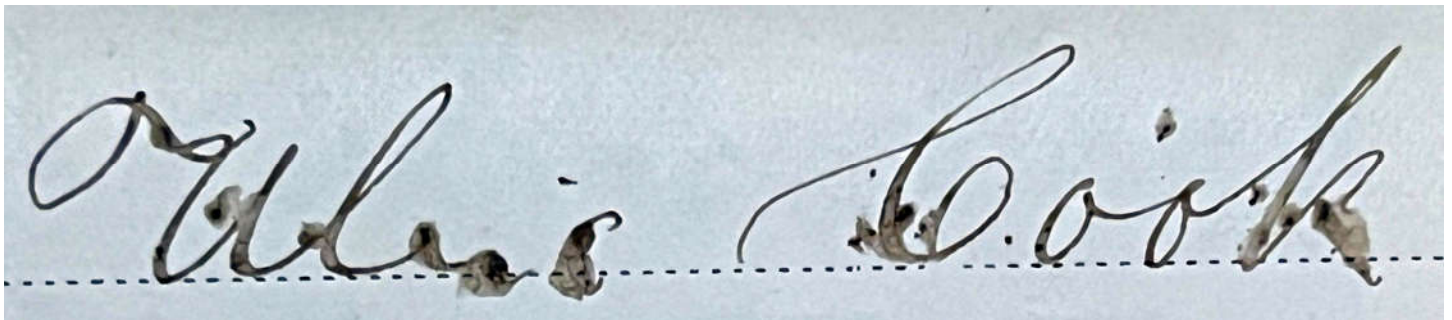
Ulric Thomas Cook property of 160 acres on Palomar Mountain, deeded 1904 [21]

The book *A History of California, and an Extended History of its Southern Coast Counties...*, written by J.M. Guinn, and published in 1907, has an entry for Ulric Cook [94]:

ULRIC T. COOK. The future of California, as of any commonwealth, is based upon its young men, to whose enterprise, judgment and intelligence the prosperity of the country during the present century will be due, and from whose activity of mind and body will result movements of inestimable value to the people. There are in San Diego county a large number of young men of unusual capability, resourcefulness and discrimination, and among them mention may be made of Ulric T. Cook, who is engaged in the raising of grain and stock in the Sutherland valley and on Smith mountain and also owns an apiary of fifty colonies of bees. Not a little of his prosperous outlook is due to the fact that he has the encouragement and active co-operation of his father, a practical farmer of long experience and still identified with the agricultural development of this county, where he and his son are faming upon an extensive scale. Los Angeles county is Mr. Cook's native locality and May 2, 1879, the fate of his birth. His parents, George and Hannah (Strong) Cook, were natives respectively of Texas and Arkansas, and during the year 1868 became residents of Los Angeles county, Cal., having previously met and married in San Diego county. The family settled on Smith mountain when Ulric was yet a small child and he attended the common schools in that district. Upon starting out to earn his livelihood he formed a partnership with his father and they now own three hundred and twenty acres in Sutherland valley. The old homestead on Smith mountain has been sold, but the father now rents the place and continues to reside there, giving his attention to its management and the care of his stock, while the son is living on their farm in the Sutherland valley. Both are stanch Democrats in political views. At this writing the father holds office as deputy sheriff and the son is serving with efficiency in the position of school trustee. Before removing from Smith mountain Mr. Cook there married, February 7, 1899, Miss Annie L. Frye, a native of California, having been born near Santa Ana, and by the union they have four children, Ella May, Ethel Edith, Marian Ray and Lucile.

In December 1908, the San Diego Union reported on the Cook brothers (U.T., G.W., and M.F. Cook) leasing land in San Luis Rey Valley, noting their Palomar Mountain land "was bought not long since by Louis Salmons [79]. Not really brothers, the Cooks mentioned were George Washington Cook and his two sons Ulric Thomas and Merton Fredrick.

In the 1910 U.S. Census, Ulric Cook was living with his family in the San Luis Rey Township along with his parents George W. and Hannah A. Cook and their family.

A photograph of a handwritten signature "Ulric Cook" in cursive script on a document with a dashed horizontal line. The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and elegant. The signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

Ulric Cook signature on a Malava School document at the San Diego History Center

References

- 1= The Helm Clan of Warner and Verruga. On Memory's Back Trail: The History of Ramona and the Backcountry of San Diego County. Charles Darrell Beck. 2nd edition. John Whiteman, 2018. pp. 127-129
- 2= Escondido Times Advocate, April 25, 1971, page 55, column 1
- 3= Third Report of the United States Board on Geographic Names, 1890 - 1906. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1901. page 120

4= Palomar from Teepee to Telescope. Catharine M. Wood and Peter Brueggeman. Mount Helix, Calif.: Peter Brueggeman. archive.org/details/wood_20230829
5= Palomar Mountain: Past and Present. Marion F. Beckler and Peter Brueggeman. Mount Helix, Calif.: Peter Brueggeman. archive.org/details/beckler_20240126
6= San Diego Evening Tribune, July 16, 1937, page 14, column 2
7= Palomar and the Stars. Edward H. Davis. Mount Helix, Calif.: Peter Brueggeman. archive.org/details/davis-palomar-stars_20230205
8= My Palomar. Robert Haley Asher, with Peter Brueggeman, editor. Mount Helix, Calif.: Peter Brueggeman. archive.org/details/asher-my-palomar_202402
9= San Diego Union, October 5, 1899, page 5, column 2
10= Escondido Daily Times-Advocate, May 11, 1934, page 1, column 5
11= Los Angeles City Directory and Gazetteer of Southern California for 1892. Los Angeles: George W. Maxwell, 1892
12= Directory of San Diego City and County for 1893-94. San Diego: John Thom, 1894
13= San Diego City and County Directory 1895. San Diego, Olmstead Co., 1895
14= Directory of San Diego City and County 1897. San Diego: Olmsted Co., 1897
15= San Diego City and County Directory for 1899-1900. San Diego: Baker Brothers, 1899
16= San Diego City and County Directory, 1901 for the Year March 1901 to March 1902. San Diego: San Diego Directory Company, 1901
17= Dana Burks' San Diego City and County Directory 1906, Containing an Alphabetical List of Business Firms and Private Citizens of San Diego City and County, Coronado, Escondido, National City, and Oceanside ... San Diego: San Diego Directory Company, 1906
18= San Diego City and County Directory 1907, Containing an Alphabetical List of Business Firms and Private Citizens of San Diego City and County, Coronado, Escondido, National City, and Oceanside ... San Diego: San Diego Directory Company, 1907
19= San Diego City and County Directory 1908, Containing an Alphabetical List of Business Firms and Private Citizens of San Diego City and County, Coronado, Escondido, National City, and Oceanside ... San Diego: San Diego Directory Company, 1908
20= San Diego City and County Directory 1909, containing an alphabetical list of business firms and private citizens of San Diego City and County, Coronado, Escondido, National City and Oceanside. San Diego: San Diego Directory Co., 1909
21= U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records [glorerecords.blm.gov](https://www.blm.gov)

Jefferson Cook

August 15, 1889, Cash Sale, 160 acres
Township-Range 010S - 001E

Section 13

Aliquots

E½NW¼

E½SW¼

November 16, 1891, Homestead Entry, 160 acres

Township-Range 010S - 001E

Section 13

Aliquots

W½NW¼

W½SW¼

William Cook

August 30, 1883, Cash Sale, 162.88 acres

Township - Range 010S - 001E

Section 12

Aliquots

N½SE¼

Township - Range 010S - 002E

Section 7

Aliquots

W½SW¼

January 21, 1890, Cash Sale, 80 acres

Township - Range 010S - 002E

Section 20

Aliquots

S½SW¼

September 3, 1890, Homestead Entry, 160 acres

Township - Range 010S - 002E

Section 20

Aliquots

NW¼SE¼

E½SE¼

Section 29

NE¼NE¼

George W Cook

January 20, 1886, Cash Sale, 161.92 acres

Township - Range 010S - 002E

Section 19

Aliquots

Lot/Trct 2

Lot/Trct 3

SE¼NW¼

SW¼NE¼

April 2, 1891, Cash Sale, 160 acres

Township - Range 010S - 002E

Section 17

Aliquots
S½SE¼
NE¼SE¼
SE¼NE¼

Hiram M Cook

September 26, 1890, Homestead Entry, 160 acres
Township-Range 010S - 001E
Section 13
Aliquots
SW¼NE¼
NW¼SE¼
S½SE¼

Ulric Cook

August 16, 1904, Cash Sale, 160 acres
Township - Range 010S - 001E
Section 13
Aliquots
E½NE¼
NW¼NE¼
NE¼SE¼

22= San Diego Union, February 12, 1881, page 2, column 4
23= San Diego Sun, October 18, 1882, page 4, column 4
24= San Diego Union, December 30, 1882, page 3, column 1
25= San Diego Sun, January 8, 1885, page 4, column 1
26= San Diego Union, January 14, 1886, page 3, column 3
27= San Diego Union, January 18, 1887, page 3, column 2
28= San Diego Union, August 2, 1887, page 7, column 2
29= San Diego Union, January 23, 1893, page 5, column 1
30= Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate, December 27, 1912, page 4, column 2
31= Escondido Times-Advocate, June 14, 1907, page 4, column 1
32= San Diego Union, March 15, 1885, page 4, column 6
33= San Diego Union, October 3, 1885, page 4, column 6
34= San Diego Union, September 22, 1891, page 7, column 1
35= Pacific Rural Press, November 2, 1889, page 393, column 2
36= San Diego Union, July 10, 1881, page 3, column 5
37= San Diego Union, April 2, 1891, page 4, column 5
38= San Diego Weekly Union, July 16, 1891, page 5, column 7
39= San Francisco Chronicle, February 20, 1891, page 1 column 5
40= Official map of San Diego County, California: compiled from latest official maps of U.S. surveys, railroad and irrigation surveys, county records, and other reliable sources. Thomas Dykes Beasley, 1890
41= Escondido Times-Advocate, February 27, 1933, page 3, column 3
42= Elsinore Leader-Press, February 19, 1942, page 3, column 2
43= San Diego Union, September 6, 1888, page 3, column 6
44= San Diego Weekly Union, June 12, 1890, page 2, column 6
45= San Diego Union, August 13, 1890, page 8, column 2
46= San Diego Weekly Union, May 21, 1891, page 5, column 5
47= San Diego Union, January 29, 1892, page 5, column 3
48= San Diego Union, January 30, 1892, page 5, column 3
49= San Diego Weekly Union, December 24, 1891, page 4, column 7
50= San Diego Weekly Union, March 24, 1892, page 8, column 1
51= San Diego Union, February 8, 1894, page 5, column 2
52= San Diego Union, February 9, 1894, page 8, column 1
53= San Diego Union, February 22, 1894, page 5, column 2
54= San Diego Union, April 8, 1894, page 5, column 2
55= San Diego Sun, June 19, 1885, page 3, column 2
56= Weekly San Diegan, January 30, 1890, page 1, column 7
57= San Diego Sun, September 13, 1890, page 2, column 2
58= National City Record, January 31, 1885, page 4, column 4
59= National City Record, February 3, 1887, page 2, column 3
60= Lake Elsinore Valley Sun-Tribune, September 18, 1947, page 15, column 3
61= San Diego Weekly Union, September 21, 1893, page 8, column 6
62= San Diego Union, December 20, 1893, page 3, column 1
63= Daily San Diegan, July 2, 1889, page 2, column 5
64= San Diego Union, October 23, 1894, page 6, column 3
65= San Diego Union, November 20, 1894, page 5, column 3
66= San Diego Union, November 26, 1895, page 2, column 1
67= San Diego Union, December 24, 1896, page 5, column 1
68= San Diego Weekly Union, October 21, 1897, page 8, column 7
69= San Diego Union, September 29, 1898, page 7, column 6
70= San Diego Union, August 10, 1899, page 5, column 2
71= San Diego Union, August 15, 1899, page 6, column 2
72= San Diego Union, October 17, 1909, page 10, column 1
73= Escondido Times-Advocate, February 27, 1933, page 3, column 3
74= San Diego Weekly Union, October 18, 1900, page 2, column 3

75= San Diego Evening Tribune, August 6, 1903, page 6, column 1
76= San Diego Union, February 5, 1903, page 3, column 1
77= San Diego Union, August 23, 1903, page 6, column 4
78= San Diego Union, October 5, 1903, page 10, column 2
79= San Diego Union, December 5, 1908, Page 6, column 4
80= Escondido Times, December 15, 1905, page 8, column 1
81= San Diego Union, March 7, 1908, page 14, column 4
82=Escondido Times-Advocate, April 25, 1971, page 55, column 1; Escondido Times-Advocate, December 12, 1976, page 41, column 1, page 43, column 1
83= Escondido Times-Advocate, September 23, 1966, page 7, column 2
84= San Diego Union, August 23, 1895, page 5, column 1
85= San Diego Union, October 7, 1895, page 5, column 3
86= San Diego Union, November 18, 1895, page 2, column 1
87= San Diego Union, November 8, 1902, page 4, column 3
88= Daily San Diegan, September 30, 1889, page 3, column 3
89= Riverside Independent Enterprise, July 21, 1897, page 2, column 6
90= San Diego Evening Tribune, September 23, 1901, page 6, column 4
91= San Diego Union, November 12, 1901, page 7, column 2
92= San Diego Union, June 16, 1902, page 3, column 4
93= Wikipedia; History of Campo. Pacific Southwest Railway Museum www.psrn.org/campo/
94= A History of California, and an Extended History of its Southern Coast Counties... J.M. Guinn. Los Angeles: Historic Record Company, 1907
95= San Diego School Records, R2.68. Folders: Cedar Grove 1899-1905; Malava 1877-1903; Palomar 1884-1909. San Diego History Center Archives.
96= San Diego Union, December 24, 1896, page 5, column 1